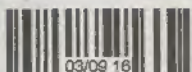


SOCCER

VOL. 23 No. 1103 — TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2002



REGISTERED BY AUSTRALIAN POST
PUBLICATIONS No. NBO5726

WEEKLY

\$3.60
GST INCLUSIVE

SHARKS SURVIVE — AT LEAST FOR ANOTHER YEAR



By Mark Stavroulakis

With just under three weeks until the kick-off of the new National League season, last year's Grand-Final winners the Olympic Sharks have been assured of financial backing from its four original owners—at least for another season.

Fears that the club's owners would pull the plug on the side this season have all but been put to rest after an extraordinary meeting took place late last Thursday amongst Sharks Chairman Nick Politis and fellow owners Matthew Lepouris, Nick Balagiannis and George Drivas.

The club came under the spotlight a few weeks back after English Premier League side Leeds United were on the verge of taking over the club. The deal however fell through and left the Sharks swimming in uncharted waters with possible exile from the National League all together.

The four owners agreed last week that they were viable to back the team again till

the end of the season, and if the National League reforms itself under Soccer Australia, they could continue to fund the side in year's to come.

"We want to see Olympic stay forever", was the plea used by Chairman Nick Politis despite he and his fellow owners suffering huge losses in their three-year tenure at the club.

Politis also stated that pulling the pin on the club would have been unfair to the players and the club itself after winning the Grand-Final last season.

"It wouldn't be fair to the players after what they achieved last season. We are champions after all".

It is believed that a 10-team competition titled the Australian Premier League is rumoured to be the new model proposed for next season's National League. This league will only take affect after the Federal Government finishes its review on the code and will recommend possible solutions to the competition next season.

The possible inclusion of an NSL second division is also being looked at closely, however this also would be considered only after the Federal Government finishes its analysis on the world game.

It is also understood that the Sharks are seeking payments from Soccer Australia over Lindsay Wilson's move to Dutch giants PSV Eindhoven this season.

The amount believed is \$130,000, which the club is currently seeking and will go legal if the situation continues to escalate.

Meanwhile, the Sharks have so far signed two new players for the up and coming National League season.



Smiles all round, Olympic Sharks players shown in pre-season training gearing up for the new National League season.

Former Wollongong Wolves captain George Souris and exciting young 16-year-old striker Matthew Hilton (see page 15 for exclusive interview) have been the new inclusions to the blue and whites.

It's been a tough few weeks for the Olympic Sharks players following the drama that has plagued the club with the recent Leeds-Sharks deal.

The players can now look forward to the National League season with only one thing on their minds — winning the double this season.

KNIGHTS MID-SEASON RISK

By Brendon Davis

As correctly foreshadowed by ABSW last month, the Melbourne Knights will be flying out to China to play two matches after the NSL's second round.

The Melbourne Knights have the bye in round 3.

The team will fly out of Australia after their second round match against Adelaide City, returning only 4 days before their fourth round fixture against Marconi.

Clearly the financial returns are behind the unusual move by the financially strapped Melbourne Knights.

Chinese businessman Liu Bing, who owns Goldenstar International and was the person behind the proposed Melbourne Dragons NSL application is said to be

about to acquire a 49% interest in the Sunshine based club for the modest outlay of \$400,000.

The Knights are expected to announce they are building on their Tasmanian experience in 2001 with further matches and other commercial activities later in the week. This trip is likely to provide significant financial benefits for the Knights.

However the obvious risks of fatigue and injury need to be balanced against any financial windfall. The Knights are seeking to use this trip to assist in their efforts to attract support from Melbourne's significant Chinese community.

With the Knights being a membership based Club it is expected the members would be required to consent to the sale of the major shareholding to the Liu Bing interests.

CHAIRMAN TO SURRENDER HIS POST

By Daniel Kuziow

Soccer Australia chairman Ian Knop faces an uncertain future after State and Territory Soccer Federations passed a vote of no confidence against him and the board of Soccer Australia.

In the meeting between the respective federations and the governing body, Knop offered to resign on the Friday as long as his fellow board members stood down. But his offer was waved away by fellow board members.

The following day, a national planning forum then recommended all board members stand down and an extraordinary general meeting be called as soon as possible with the intention of establishing an independent board with no ties to any other sectors of the sport.

Knop has been at the helm for a little over 12 months and in recent weeks his tenure has been subject to increasing criticism from a number of high profile individuals.

It was only two weeks ago that NSW Soccer Federation president Tom Doumanis

and Victorian counterpart Manny Galanos had called for the chairman's head and the situation was made worse when fellow Soccer Australia board member Joe Brondolino echoed the calls of Doumanis.

The latest move by the regional power brokers is seen as a way of creating a truly independently run game, free of the problems that has plagued the organisation for too long. Perhaps the time is right to say, adios Mr Knop.



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AUSTRALIAN AND BRITISH SOCCER WEEKLY

Issue No. 1103

"Published every Tuesday by
F.L. Press
118-124 Bourke Rd,
Alexandria NSW 2015

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MAILING ADDRESS
118-124 Bourke Rd,
Alexandria NSW 2015

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Australia: \$195 (GST incl.)
Overseas: \$255 (GST incl.)

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Deadline for contributions, articles
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BY DANIEL KUZIW

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FC Basel midfielder Ivan Ergic has blasted Celtic, insisting the Bhoys were obsessed with the Champions League jackpot.

Aussie youngster and now Yugoslav U21 international Ivan Ergic has blasted Scottish giants Celtic after Basel's shock 2-0 win on Wednesday.

He said, "To be honest, we were expecting more from Celtic," as quoted on tribalfutbol.com



Ivan Ergic: Delighted with Basel's victory over Celtic.

"We know how big a club they are - they are a famous name across Europe - and we expected them to cause us a lot of trouble.

"Maybe all the talk of the money that was on offer distracted them from their job.

"I think they were under a lot of pressure and maybe the thought of all that money made them nervous.

"We are only a small club so we were not under the same financial stress.

"That's the first time FC Basel has qualified for the Champions League.

"I think we wanted it more even though there were huge financial implications for Celtic."

★★★★
Socceroo defender Kevin Muscat is facing a £1million

(\$2.75m) lawsuit over a tackle on an opponent four years ago, according to Scottish newspaper reports.



Kevin Muscat: A lawsuit looms for the Rangers' defender.

With echoes of Alf Inge Haaland's decision to sue Manchester United star Roy Keane for a tackle he made on the Norwegian in April 2001, former Charlton player Matty Holmes says Muscat's challenge ended his career. Muscat, now at Wolverhampton Wanderers at the time.

Holmes suffered a fracture so severe he had to have four operations and had a steel rod inserted in his leg. He also had skin grafts. He was forced to give up soccer 12 months after the collision.

★★★★
Former Colchester United defender Con Blatsis has found himself a new club - signing for Turkish top-flight side Kocaelispor.

24-year-old Blatsis played seven games for the U's at the end of last season, having joined the club on a short-term contract. Manager Steve Whitton offered him a contract to stay at Layer Road for the 2002/3 season.

However, Blatsis opted to sign a deal with Turkish side Kocaelispor.

They are due to compete in

this season's UEFA Cup, but have got off to a bad start so far in their league campaign, having lost their first three games of the new campaign.



Con Blatsis: From Colchester to Turkish side Kocaelispor.

★★★★
Leeds ace Mark Viduka has admitted that he is playing through pain as he tries to shake off an Achilles injury.

The Aussie striker, who has two Premiership goals to date this season, said: "I think I have tendonitis or something in my Achilles.

"It is a difficult injury to treat. If you rest it, you can come back for the next game and still find it hurting, so the best way is to go through the pain and try to keep training and playing.

"I could have surgery but if that happened it would put me out for a long time, so I am trying to avoid it."

Viduka has been swimming to try and counter the injury and told the Leeds United programme: "I've been spending more time in the pool than on the training pitch.

"This is the same sort of injury that Harry (Kewell), Macca (Stephen McPhail) and Batts (David Batty) had, though I hope it won't turn out to be as bad as theirs.

"I'm just trying to play it cool and get through it as well as possible."

★★★★
Blackburn hope to beat the transfer deadline with a move for Millwall's tough Australian midfielder Tim Cahill.

The Rovers manager, Graeme Souness, has offered three of his fringe players Craig Hignett,



Tim Cahill: Sparking interest from Premier League side Blackburn.



Craig Moore: Ready for a big season in Europe.

Alan Mahon and John Curtis as makeweights in the bid for the £3.5m-rated player, who has already been targeted by Aston Villa.

★★★★
Craig Moore is keen to once again tackle the rigors of European football.

In the first round of the UEFA Cup, Rangers have been drawn against Czech Republic side Viktoria Zizkov with Moore telling the official Rangers website: "The UEFA Cup is a nice distraction from domestic football and it's always good to get an away tie first.

"We don't know too much about them yet but to be honest it wouldn't have really mattered who we were drawn against, it's just nice to get started.

"We lost to Feyenoord last season and they went on to win the trophy so it shows you how close we came to succeeding in the competition.

"But you need a huge slice of luck in Europe. We have done reasonably well recently and the teams that have knocked us out have gone on to do very well.

"It's such a fine line between success and failure at this level. Our main aim is to be involved in the competition as long as possible.

"Big European nights at Ibrox are always special so if we could be involved in a few of them I'd be happy.

"My favourite European season was 1999/2000. We had Champions League group games against Valencia, Bayern Munich and PSV Eindhoven and I really enjoyed that run.

"It was disappointing not to go through but we came very, very close.

"That experience was really enjoyable. We beat PSV home and away and drew with Bayern twice

and we probably deserved to progress.

"Hopefully we can have another good crack at Europe this year and I can't wait to get started against the Czechs on September 17."

★★★★
IFK Norrköping have signed Aussie midfielder Nick Bosevski.

The former Marconi and Sydney United attacker impressed during a week's trials and agreed terms yesterday on a short-term deal.

Bosevski will have three months to prove himself and win a long-term contract.

IFK coach Tor-Arne Fredheim said, "Nick is sharp and very good technically."

Bosevski moves to Sweden on a free transfer from NSW State League outfit Rockdale City.

★★★★
Olympic Sharks striker Dylan McAllister has been offered terms by FC Aarau.

The Australia U20 international has been trialling with the Swiss outfit for over a week and has reportedly done enough to win a contract.



Dylan McAllister: Now on the books of FC Aarau.

New NSL, Roos TV deals?

Channel Seven and Soccer Australia are holding talks that could see Seven relinquish its NSL coverage, apart from the finals, to Fox Sports in return for securing all Socceroos matches until the 2010 World Cup.

That would leave the NSL games, which start on Friday September 20, to be televised on Fox Sports.

The Pay TV network's marketing director Adam Oakes admitted to AAP that it is in negotiations with SA to secure the rights to the NSL matches.

"Soccer Australia approached us to see if we were interested in television coverage of the NSL," Oakes revealed.

"We'll be talking to them frequently over the next week and if we can come to an arrangement with Soccer Australia, we'll show the



games."

Oakes added that if a deal was to be agreed, live NSL games would be shown wherever possible.

Seven's pay-TV partner C7 collapsed on the eve of the NSL finals last season, leaving the finals matches to be shown on the free-to-

air station, but now the network and SA are holding talks.

Under the proposed plans, it is believed that Seven would get all Socceroos matches, including several international friendlies each year, but at the same time it would drop

its weekly late-night NSL match of the round, retaining only the finals matches.

Seven is also reportedly provide a payout to the financially-struggling SA in order to be released from its current deal which was to run until 2006.



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Matildas face police probe

The Federal Police have been asked to launch a criminal investigation in to the running of the Australian Women's Soccer Association (AWSA) after hundreds of thousands of dollars went missing.

Opposition sports spokeswoman Kate Lundy told the Senate yesterday: "I have... written to the Australian Federal Police and the Australian Customs Service asking them to look into these matters as they may be of a criminal nature."

The Australian women's national team has often made the headlines for off-field issues including the racy Matildas calendar while more recently, members of the squad revealed that they were pressured in to appearing semi-nude for a foreign toothpaste cam-

paign in 2000 that netted AWSA \$A100,000.

However this has been dismissed by former AWSA vice-president Maria Berry who told ABC radio that all players used in the ad agreed to wear only flesh-coloured G-strings.

"It was put to players that it was an opportunity for them to earn some money and it was an opportunity also for the sport to help supplement the government funds that were available and to enhance the program," said Berry.

"The advertisement was scripted and it was a little bit of a play on the calendar, but it was something that was very much voluntary for those players that wanted to participate."

Yesterday, Senator Lundy questioned the criteria used to select the players for the ad, why those chosen were not told

the details of the shoot, how much the AWSA, ASC or Australian Institute of Sport knew and whether they endorsed nude ads as fundraisers.

As well as these 'fundraising' endeavours, AWSA received Australian Sports Commission (ASC) funding of \$1.15 million in 1999/2000 and \$710,000 for the 2000 Sydney Olympic Games preparations.

Despite all of this, AWSA had just \$28,000 left in March 2000 and was eventually liquidated last month after it was revealed that it owed its lawyers \$70,000.

Senator Lundy said that the financial and ethical dealings of AWSA, and Soccer Australia, should be included in the soccer inquiry that was announced earlier this month by Sports Minister Rod Kemp.



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Soccer Association**

YOUTH LEAGUE

Applications are called for coaching positions with the Dolphins Youth League Teams from Under 11's to Under 17's teams for Season 2003.

Trials for Youth League Teams commence on 14th October 2002.

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OFC President commends Young Matildas

Oceania Football Confederation president, Basil Scarsella, has today commended the 'Young Matildas' for their brilliant showing at the FIFA U-19 Women's World Championship in Canada.

The Young Matildas narrowly missed out on a semi-final berth after going down in a close quarter-final against Brazil.

Going down to a golden goal, Mr Scarsella commented that in their courageous display playing with commitment right till the end of the game, they did the whole of Oceania and Australia proud.

"The players and team management can rightly take a bow for their performance in Canada," said Scarsella.

"They showed the kind of determination to win that we hope other teams will emulate in future when they represent the OFC in FIFA tournaments."

The fact they could well have won through to the semi-finals means Oceania is capable of matching it with the best at this level."

Mr Scarsella added that the result

would go a long way towards boosting the profile of women's soccer in the region. It would also provide a motivating force for other OFC teams in future qualifying tournaments with the FIFA U-19 Women's World Championships, now likely to be a permanent fixture on the FIFA competitions calendar.

He is also optimistic that there will be more good news on the women's soccer scene in the coming months with the OFC Women's World Cup Qualifiers and OFC Olympic Qualifiers scheduled for April 2003 and March 2004 respectively.



OFC President Basil Scarsella.

Paul Foster calls it a Day

By Mark Stavroulakis

Veteran Brisbane Strikers star Paul Foster has dropped a bombshell on coach John Kosmina after deciding to retire from the game all together this season.

The 34-year-old was one of the main instigators in the Strikers run to the National League play-offs last season as the striker bagged 13 goals.

Known as an expert 'goal pouch-

er', his lethal instincts up front will be sorely missed by the Strikers who really have their work cut out in replacing such a player. Prior to his three seasons at the Strikers, Foster was part of the Hong Kong set-up where it was there that many people realised his enormous potential as an attacker.

To this very day, Foster is still regarded as one of the most prolific strikers ever to come to the country.

Brother Craig Foster looks also set to hang the boots up after a successful career at international level.

Craig has been appointed a job at Northern Spirit but his involvement in the media through SBS will surely keep the name Foster around in the soccer circles. On another note at the Strikers, defender Shane Stefanutto has returned from unsuccessful trials at Norwegian first division club Molde.

The left-sided wingback arrived in Brisbane last week and has already started pre-season training with Kosmina's squad. This comes as a huge boost for the Strikers who hope to go one better than last season's performance in making the finals series.



Paul Foster decided to retire ending a three-year relationship with Brisbane Strikers.

KNIGHTS SIGN COOK ISLANDS INTERNATIONAL

Melbourne Knights are on the verge of going from famine to feast, signing one striker and being in advanced negotiations to secure two more goalscorers.

The Knights last week pipped Perth Glory for the services of Solomon Island striker Henry Fa'Arodo, who signed a two-year contract.

The club is also confident of securing former Socceroo striker Joe Spiteri and prodigal son Adrian Cervinski.

Cervinski trained with the Knights last night having moved back to Geelong after a season with the Northern Spirit.

Spiteri has indicated he will accept the Knights' offer if they can find him a job in the IT industry.

Fa'Arodo, who rejected a bigger offer from Perth, said he was happy to remain in Melbourne after playing for Fawkner in the Premier League.



Melbourne Knights have signed Fawkner Blues star Henry Fa'Arodo.

Cahill joins the Power

By Mark Stavroulakis

No soccer fans, Tim Cahill, Millwall's exciting midfielder has not signed with the Parramatta Power however his younger brother Chris has been added to the growing roster of new players for coach Nick Theodorakopoulos' squad this season.

Having been on the books for Marconi and just a few months back was set to join Cardiff City, the youngster has been training quite well with the Power squad during pre-season.

The young defender is poised to make his debut with Parramatta in the National League pending on how he fairs in the Youth squad with coach Trevor Morgan.

Big brother Tim has of course grabbed huge headlines as a transfer is on the cards to the Premier League, but the destination is at this stage unknown.

Meanwhile, talks between the Power and star striker Pablo

Cardozo have been put on hold. As stated in ABSW last week, Newcastle United, Sydney United and the Olympic Sharks all showed interest in signing Cardozo but an official word has yet to be announced by the player who is regarded by many as one of the National League's most lethal strikers.



Chris Cahill hoping to do well with the Parramatta Power this season.

Force on the Mend

Adelaide City has staged an off-field recovery after three loss-making years.

The club has reported it broke even in the 2001-02 financial year, a dramatic improvement on the previous year when it lost \$837,584.

An increase in sponsorship of \$640,000, reduced player wages and lower running costs contributed to the improved finances.

But gate takings were down almost \$50,000 to \$218,953, largely the result of City's horror campaign last season when it finished second bottom. Overall, City generated income of \$1,808,000, \$300,000 more than in 2000-01.

Chairman Bob D'Ottavi, whose company Best Bricks and Pavers contributed \$800,000 of the \$955,000 in sponsorship, said yesterday City was now one of the most efficiently run NSL clubs.

"I doubt whether any team is in a

better position than Adelaide City," he said. "We pay our bills on time, we don't have an overdraft and we have a strong squad for next season."

"We had a bad patch a few years ago but we've come through that storm and now we are looking forward to what I believe will be a strong year, on and off the field."

"Some of our previous sponsors like Gordon Pickard (Fairmont Homes) have come back to the club and that can only make us stronger. There is a lot of optimism and that is heartening."

D'Ottavi said he believed City would be one of the first teams included in the planned 10-team Australian Premier League for 2003-04.

"Whatever restructure they have, we'll be in, don't worry about that. We are in a very sound position."

*Source - The Advertiser (Adelaide).

ARRARTE ON THE MEND AS SAVOCA RETURNS TO UNITED

By Mark Stavroulakis

Sydney United midfielder Nahuel Arrarte is recovering well from his recent groin operation and is scheduled to be back at training with the United boys within a week.

The former NSWIS graduate has been a key player for Branko Culina's squad for the past three seasons.

United's first match is scheduled against the Auckland Kingz in New Zealand where Nahuel hopes to be there for the red and white's.

While Sydney United defender Vince Savoca is scheduled to arrive back in Sydney from his successful stint with Malaysian side Johor FC in early September.

Savoca will rejoin his teammates for pre-season matches and should have no problems with fitness as he had made over 20 appearances for his Malaysian side.

Teammate Jon Angelluci will not return to Australia till the end of October.

Johor FC are battling with Perak, Kedah and NS Compaka for a quarter-final berth of the Malaysia Cup and see both players as crucial to their chances.

Finally, a decision will be set in the next few weeks whether Sydney United will offer former Olympic Sharks players Peter Zorbas and Anthony Dumanis.



Nahuel Arrarte: Sydney United's exciting young prospect.

Craig Foster lashes out at SA

Former Socceroo Craig Foster says the game in this country will struggle while Soccer Australia continues to ignore pure football issues.

And he believes SA must start recruiting the country's former top players or recruit overseas talent for administrative positions to ensure Australia's up-and-coming players are capable of matching their overseas opponents.

"Soccer Australia sorely lacks football expertise in key areas which will impact enormously on Australia's future success," Foster told www.theworldgame.com.au in an exclusive column.

Among the examples that Foster cites is no defining selection policy for Socceroos coach Frank Farina to follow.

"Would the members (SA) understand the club versus country issue given that none have played at European club level?" Foster asks. "By leaving the policy to the coach we are open to change with outgoing coaches every few years, which undermines tradition."

Foster also says there is a lack of analysis and measurement of

coaching methods in Australia and a lack of understanding of contemporary coaching strategies. He doubted the level of understanding in Australia, of what Terry Venables was trying to achieve during his time as Socceroos coach.

"What are our strengths and weaknesses as footballers, as assessed by a competent football technician?"

"Even today I doubt if there are many coaches in Australia who truly understand the football espoused by Venables. I'm talking here about the level of coaching which allows a coach to see problems develop on the park, to fix them and pose a tactical problem to the other team."

"We need competent football technicians, former players or imported expertise, to plot a sound course ahead."

Soccer Australia needs to address these issues now, assess every part of our soccer management structure, change direction where prudent, and learn from the world's best footballing nations."



Craig Foster has stated that football will struggle in this country if Soccer Australia continue to ignore the important issues of the sport.

AUSSIE AT OLD TRAFFORD

By Mark Stavroulakis

It was great to see Melbourne-born custodian Husa Ilic in action for Hungarian minnows Zalaegerszeg however could not prevent his side from crashing out to English Giants Manchester United 5-0.

The first match played in Hungary saw Ilic's side take a one-nil advantage prior to their match up at Old Trafford last week.

Most Australians would remember Ilic from the English Premier League when he was Charlton's number one goalkeeper and managed to put on many quality displays for the squad.

The 30-year-old opted to represent Yugoslavia through his great performances for the English club so what was

Australia's loss is another country's gain.

Just goes to show how good this country is in producing great shot stoppers.



Aussie Sasa Ilic in action against Manchester United last week.

BRANKO CULINA READY TO TAKE ON THE BIG GUNS!

By Joe Russo

As the beginning of the NSL season fast approaches, all clubs are eager for the next few weeks to go by as fast as possible.

Following on the heels of a very successful World Cup in Korea/Japan, the 2002/03 season is much anticipated. Sydney United, like all other clubs, have been preparing furiously and once again the Edensor Park based outfit will be coached by Branko Culina.

Sydney United is a club that has often made the NSL news for matters that have very little to do with soccer. A proud and traditional club, they were virtually ostracised under the David Hill led Soccer Australia regime and last year they were in the headlines for financial rather playing reasons.



The irony is that Hill tried to outcast the team but they were Minor Premiers (Champions in every other country) and Grand Finalists in Brisbane in 1997.

That was five years ago and Culina was also at the helm of the team back then. It was a team that had been together for three years under Culina and they played some of the most attractive soccer ever witnessed in the NSL.

For the record names such as Popovic, Milicic, Zdrilic, Kalac, Moric and Marusic were part of that amazing team. Kresimir Marusic was actually voted Player of the Year, David Zdrilic was leading goalscorer with 21 goals and Culina was Coach of the Year.

1997 will live long in the memory of soccer fans in general.

Culina was also rewarded for his success when he was appointed as Assistant Coach of the Under 20 Socceroos that played in the World Youth Cup in Malaysia that year.

Five years on and Culina is at the helm of Sydney Utd again. It is his second year in his second stint at the club. So is he looking forward to the challenge of the NSL season?

"It's always nice to start a new season. Everyone wants to prove themselves and it is very exciting," he said.

Culina at 44 years of age is in that prime age bracket of a coach. By European standards a coach is considered to be in his prime from early 40's until about mid 50's. Of course there are the few older exceptions to this rule.

Culina is the Head Coach but will be assisted by Ivan Petkovic and Tony Pezzano, who has the dual role of Youth Team Coach and Goalkeeper Coach. Tony Krslovic will also work in an honorary capacity on the coaching team and can focus his energies on younger players in the squad and help them develop.

"I am grateful and lucky to have them. Unlike other clubs where they can be employed on a full-time basis, they are part-time here," Culina said.

"They give a lot of their time and are believers in what I am trying to achieve."

Sydney Utd is not a big spending club and has purchased wisely given their budgetary constraints. David Barrett, Damon Collina, Louis Brain and a few Croatian imports will certainly strengthen the side.

"Dave Barrett is a very experienced

player who still has a lot to offer. Obviously every club has a budget and I feel very comfortable with the players we have bought. They will be great assets to the club.

"Louis Brain is a youngster with a lot of potential and Damon Collina comes from Olympic Sharks. I have coached him before and I know his strengths. He will add that bit of aggression that we need in our team and I know that he is keen to prove himself again.

"The Croatian players will bring a lot of experience and it is just unfortunate that they couldn't do the pre-season with the rest of us."

After a rather disappointing year last season, there is no doubt that the Sydney Utd fans will be expecting better. As Culina explains it is a sentiment that runs right through the club.

"The players, supporters, directors and I all expect better than last year. We have done everything we possibly can to improve.

"I feel confident that we will be a far more competitive side because we have a lot of young players who were blooded last year and hopefully we will be a better balanced side."

So just who are the players to watch in the Sydney Utd side? "The senior players will play a big part in our team's destiny. The younger players with the help of the senior players can go that next step.

"We have good young players such as Milan Jednak (currently trialing overseas), Nahuel Arrarte, Christian Cevenini, Brendon Santalab, Mile Bosnar, Michael Sindric and Louis Brain, who are all under 20 or thereabouts," Culina said.

Sydney Utd are realistic in terms of expectations. Rarely does this club make bold predictions about where they expect to be. However, there is no doubt that they can, and often do, create considerable problems for the more fancied opposition. Who does Culina rate as the opposition to really look out for?

"It is only natural that Perth Glory and Olympic Sharks should be there again this year. You could probably add in Parramatta Power, with their new players, and also Newcastle. After that there are a host of clubs that are too hard to separate and could be there at the end."

Culina is now into his tenth season in the NSL after starting out in 1992/93 with a brief stint at Melbourne Knights. It was

followed by three years 1994 to 97 at Sydney Utd, a season at Canberra Cosmos and three years at Sydney Olympic. Ironically, it was the same Olympic team that Culina had worked with and built that eventually won the NSL Grand Final last year.

Just prior to the start of last season Olympic dumped Culina in controversial circumstances and Sydney Utd quickly snapped up their former coach. Gary

an opinion on the future of soccer in Australia given recent failures such as the Oceania Nations Cup in Auckland.

"It is what we make of it. Every year I spend a lot of money and time going overseas because I always want to improve myself.

"Maybe what we need to do here in Australia is the same. Be it players, coaches or administrators, we need to move forward and keep learning from the rest of



New United recruit Damon Collina ready for a big season with his new club.



The little master, Gabriel 'Chi Chi' Mendez will be at his best in United's plight for a top six finish this season.



Branko Culina: Sydney United's head coach.

Phillips picked up the pieces at Olympic and the rest is history.

However, in a further twist of irony, it was Ante Milicic who scored Olympic's winning Grand Final goal against Perth Glory at Subiaco Oval. Milicic moved to Olympic half way through the season because Sydney Utd at the time needed the transfer money. It was Culina who had indirectly helped his former club.

Culina for the majority of his club coaching career has never worked with any of the so-called bigger name clubs. Furthermore, he has often been forced to build a team with a limited budget or work wonders with the younger players.

Apart from the Assistant's role at the 1997 World Youth Cup in Malaysia, Culina has never even been considered for higher coaching honours. However, he is always one to remain positive and takes it all in his stride.

After a decade in the NSL as coach, Culina is well and truly qualified to offer

the world. We need to keep improving ourselves.

"We can't always blame others for our shortcomings. We need to always stay positive. We need to believe in ourselves and get out of our negative environment.

"Let's find ways and means for things to be done. If you stay negative there are a lot of people who are willing to join you. People who don't follow soccer look at the negatives and then say 'I told you so.'

"We need to go overseas to see how things are done. Perhaps to Italy, which I still consider to be the number one country in the world for club football, or England, Spain or Germany. These four countries have the best leagues in the world and we could take the best ideas from each.

"Our player talent overseas proves how good our game is. These players didn't just happen — someone must be doing something right. Australia is doing a lot of good things, but it is just that sometimes we lose focus."



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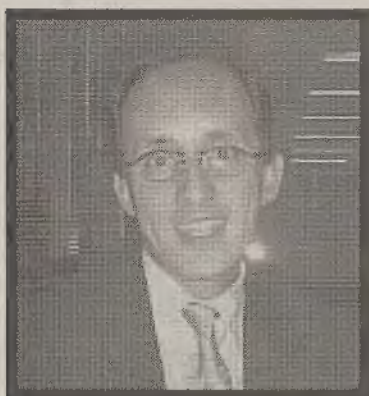
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The Victorian Chronicles



By Brendon Davis

South -v- Knights Friendly

Last Sunday South Melbourne played their cross town rivals the Melbourne Knights in a friendly with the blue and whites prevailing in a high scoring encounter. The final scoreline was 5-2 in the match played at Knights Stadium.

South caught a young Knights off guard scoring three early goals before the home team pulled one back just before the break.

A 3-1 half time lead was extended as coach Danny Wright made six substitutions, with trialist Michael Baird one of better players. Baird celebrated his 19th birthday by scoring in each appearance through his two-week trial at South.

Both Victorian teams continue their pre-season preparation this week with the commencement of the Tynan Eyre Cup. South will take on Premier League Champions Fawcner while the Knights play runners up; Preston.

The tournament is based on a round robin format with the final on Sunday September 15 at Bob Jane Stadium.



Danny Wright: New South Melbourne Head Coach.

SOUTH MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

South Melbourne launched an ambitious membership drive for the 2002/2003 season seeking to increase the number of financial members to 3000.

To increase the Clubs membership current members are asked to encourage friends and family to buy memberships to support the Club. Over the next few days captain Paul Trimboli, Peter Tsolakis, Peter Buljan and other South Melbourne players will be phoning all 2001/2002 members, to encourage members to renew.

CHINESE BID FOR KNIGHTS



The Chinese consortium that wanted to establish the Melbourne Dragons as Victoria's third National Soccer League club is seeking to take a significant stake in the Melbourne Knights.

Liu Bing, the entrepreneur behind Goldenstar International Investment Pty Ltd, which made the Melbourne Dragons NSL proposal, yesterday confirmed he had had talks with the Knights about a deal for the Knights according to The Age newspaper. The Knights seemingly confirmed the accuracy of the report by posting the article on their official web site.

"At the moment, we are in negotiations. If things happen quickly, it could be done within a fortnight. But the Knights are a community-based team and they cannot do things as quickly as we can, Liu Bing said through an interpreter.

Knights president Steve Mandekic said "there had been a proposal but nothing concrete."

The Chinese syndicate is said to be prepared to offer \$400,000 for a half interest in the Knights.

Proposed details on the likely changes to the Knights colours, ground, name and the like were not revealed by either party.

KISNORBO REJECTS SWEDES

South agreed terms with Swedish Club Hammerby yesterday for the sale of defender Patrick Kisnorbo.

However Kisnorbo rejected the personal terms offered by the Swedish Club so is unlikely to be contracted prior to the closing of the transfer window this week.

This could jeopardize the star players immediate future as the next European transfer opportunity occurs in January but he is unlikely to be the subject of demand if he's not playing first team football.

Meanwhile another former South midfielder, Zelko Susa has agreed personal terms with South but his former Croatian club is frustrating the transfer.

KNIGHTS SIGNING

Melbourne Knights beat several clubs to secure the signature of Henry Fa'arodo.

Both South Melbourne and Perth Glory were said to be keen on the young striker.



Joe Spiteri could be another new face at the Knights this season.

Fa'arodo was the front man at VPL Champions Fawcner. He was the recipient of the prestigious Bill Flemming award for the media judged best VPL player.

He is likely to be joined at Sunshine by a familiar face in Joe Spiteri, his striking partner from Fawcner who is deep in negotiations over personal terms with the Knights as ABSW goes to press.

The Knights have numerous other trialists, one of the highest profile being Northern Spirit old boy, Adrian Cervinski.

DON'T BILL US

Both Victorian Clubs understandably reacted poorly to suggestions the NSL Clubs will be forced to fund the \$1,500,000 financial shortfall caused by the collapse of the NSL marketing agreement.

South and the Knights have both slashed spending this season so funding the additional \$70,000 to \$80,000 would cause great hardship for both clubs.

Ironically the rumored financial shortfall overshadowed successful new funding secured by the clubs this week.

Prestige Cranes announced a major sponsorship at Sunshine while Souths coffers swelled by more than \$100,000 following a further launch of the business coterie. And South expect to be finalising their major sponsorship this week.

KNIGHTS TASSY DEAL

A forecast by ABSW the Melbourne Knights will formally announce an exciting venture in Tasmania later in the week.

Knights General manager Robert Hrzic told ABSW "this involves more than just playing a game, it's a genuine working relationship involving a 3-5 year plan".

ABSW will bring you full details on the venture once its formally announced during the week.

KNIGHTS CHAMPIONS

Celebrations commenced at Sunshine on the weekend.

The Knights secured yet another junior championship with their Under 18 team winning the state championship.

With a 3-0 final scoreline against Thomastown, the young Knights added further silverware to the youth sections trophy cabinet. With their youth team now shooting

for their third successive Youth Section State Championship the Knights are certainly doing something right in the junior ranks.

More Than A Quick Fix Needed

Editorial by Brendon Davis

I'll conceive quick fix band-aids such as the salary cap proposed by SA Director Joe Brondolino over the weekend would likely hamper the development of our NSL rather than providing the desired salvation.

While Brondolino's intentions are honorable the concept of a salary cap in the NSL is both philosophically and practically indefensible.

An industry body imposing earning limits on any professionals, mechanics, doctors, golfers or professional footballers is plain naive. Advocates of the salary cap will point to the supposed success of the AFL cap the but this ignores the simple reality AFL is played only in our home market. There is no international demand for AFL footballers enabling the salary cap and its supporting draft to prevail "successfully".

We can only assume Mr Brondolino doesn't seek a draft for soccer players too, as this would be unmanageable given the international pool of and demand for players.

On a practical level an NSL salary cap would hamper the development of the NSL. Too frequently the best young prospects treat the NSL as an apprenticeship for the European leagues, which impacts adversely on the standard of the NSL. This has a negative flow on effect reducing the standard of the NSL, contributing to poor attendance's and therefore appealing less to both television and the necessary corporate supporter.

Having Australia's top players playing their trade every week is the best way to develop the world game in Australia.

This salivating prospect however will be further eroded with the introduction of a salary cap as players will be more determined to move to Europe, or even Asia or America sooner than necessary in a natural desire to increase their earnings.

Better-run clubs generate increased revenue from sponsors, corporates, merchandising and various other sources. Clubs relying on benefactor(s) have to appreciate this is unsustainable in the longer term but all clubs are under financed increasing the attractiveness of quick fix solutions.

The clubs themselves can't be blamed for the current state of the NSL as inferred by Brondolino. Rather the NSL has self destructed as a consequence of its own mismanagement over an extended period inflamed by the unfortunate self interest and ego's possessed by the various stakeholders. Nothing highlights this more than the irrational and unnecessary public utterances from the Victorian and NSW State Federation Presidents this week advocating President Knopp's resignation following his support for the independent inquiry into Australian Soccer.

Once again personal self-interest seems to have taken priority over desperately needed reform of our codes administration, a decision unanimously supported by the Board.

The absence of an NSL naming rights sponsor in particular is beyond justification. Further the indefensible fact the clubs pay a significant fee for inclusion in the NSL to highlight the poor management of which Mr Brondolino is an active and long term participant. Rights revenue (such as television) is a major source of income for most soccer clubs globally.

Our clubs however are not blameless. Some have been so poorly managed or possibly so weekly managed their Boards

have failed financially by spending more than they earn, often way in excess. The current plight of the Sydney Sharks amply evidences this, the withdrawal of the benefactors (who allowed expenditure to balloon beyond levels of commercial viability) may finish this iconic club, our reigning champions.

Few clubs would genuinely suggest they have been well run - measured on any sensible commercial grounds. Brand leverage and marketing involves far more than a few clinics or selling a few lines of merchandise. How many have a multi-media plan for example? Even the standard of most club web sites partly explains the reason our youth prefer supporting European Clubs - its easier (and sexier) to follow them, and you do so from the comfort of your lounge room.

The average salary for NSL players last season was around \$40,000 - a figure which reduces significantly if you discount Perth from the equation, so clearly player payments are tiny by any standard. In fact a logical position is the standard of the NSL will improve if players are better paid although Mr Brondolino was silent on his proposed level of salary cap so an automatic assumption he is calling for a reduction in wages is unfair.

Accompanying most salary caps, such as the AFL version is a condition all Clubs are compelled to pay a minimum percentage (95% in the AFL) of the salary cap. It's intended to ensure all clubs are generally of a similar standard, making games more even and giving all clubs a theoretical equal chance of winning the championship.

Unfortunately this worthy intention is impractical.

Our lowest spending NSL Clubs such as the Melbourne Knights wage budget is roughly 25% of the largest. Clubs budget A requirement the Knights increase their wages fourfold would likely force the club into administration.

The alternative is to force larger clubs to reduce their wages spend, either to match the lowest spender or to compromise somewhere in between. The low spending clubs can't afford an increase (or they would spend more now) while the bigger clubs can't be penalized for generating additional revenue enabling them to compete internationally for the better players.

It won't take an MBA to identify the pressing needs of the NSL; which has to start with the mooted competition reform, an independent commission and a properly structured and managed competition. And critically the clubs, or more precisely the club boards have to generate the necessary revenue to finance their teams.

And the players too must contribute. We need more games, flexibility in playing at peak demand times (such as during the Xmas holidays), scheduling fixtures for television which by implication involves mid week fixtures and participating in regional competitions, such as Asian Championships while wage demands must be kept in check.

Given our relatively small economy we'll never be capable of retaining all the best players in Australia. But with a well run NSL, professionally run clubs and adequate remuneration for players our competition may yet flourish.

Oh, and respect for the concept of Board confidentiality and Board solidarity will greatly assist, Mr Brondolino



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TALENT FLOWING AT ADELAIDE FORCE

By Allan Crisp

What motivated former Parma and Perugia defender Diego Pellegrini to say *arrivederci* to Italy and "G'dDay" to Adelaide?

Perhaps the photographs



Gianluca Lagati: Speedy defender ready for a huge season this year with the Force.

he saw of the Victoria Square Fountain reminded him of Rome's Fontana Di Trevi coin collecting waterfall.

Then again, the reason Adelaide City Force managed the recruiting coup could have much to do with the persuasive power of club president Bob D'Ottavi who travelled to Italy to clinch the deal.

D'Ottavi also managed to convince former goalscoring favourite Claudio Pelosi to return in time for the new season, along with speedy flank defender Gianluca Lagati, who arrived last month.

The fact that Pelosi and Lagati gave their friend Pellegrini glowing reports about South Australia and its lifestyle was also a contributing factor.

D'Ottavi believes his new players have demonstrated excellent timing in coming to Australia when Italian professional clubs are accepting a record number of foreign imports.

"Claudio, Diego and Gianluca are obviously looking to life after football in coming to Australia," D'Ottavi said.



Pelosi, who stayed behind in Italy to complete his business affairs, is due to touch down in Adelaide today (Tuesday, September 3).

The decision to pack up and leave would have been easier for free spirited single men Pelosi and Lagati, but the wrench would have been tougher for Pellegrini, who was accompanied by his wife Valentina and daughters Martina, 6, and Giorgia, 5.

The Pellegrini girls have already started school and their parents are delighted that they will soon have command of a second lan-

guage.

Pellegrini is delighted with the hospitality shown to him and his family and is pleased with the ready acceptance displayed by his team-mates.

Adelaide City coach Charley Villani has been impressed by the ease in which Pellegrini has slotted into his formation.

"He was outstanding when we played a friendly against Para Hills and repeated his defensive dominance when we won 7-1 against Modbury Jets," Villani enthused.

"With Pelosi, Lagati and Pellegrini joining Carl Veart, Aurelio Vidmar and Ante Kovacevic, we now have plenty of experience to balance our young talent and can look forward to a successful season."

Despite the pre-season enthusiasm, Villani, a mid-field hero of City's 1986 championship winning team, has played enough games and coached enough teams to

A.P.I.A.-LEICHHARDT ON A REVIVAL PATH?

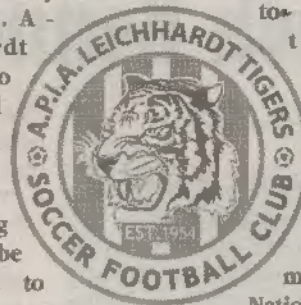
Huge happenings are set to take place on the 29th of September at the Casa D'Italia (Italy House-10am) in Norton Street Sydney as A.P.I.A.-Leichhardt look set to unveil some big news.

The meeting will be addressed to Sydney's soccer fraternity with the objective being to gain necessary support to rejuvenate a once powerhouse club in

Australian soccer.

Having held a rich history with so many quality players and moments that have passed through the club, Apia are hoping to change things around in terms of professionalism by hopefully being promoted to the National League

once again. Stay tuned to ABSW for more developments on this issue in forthcoming editions.



Claudio Pelosi: Goals will be his main aim in the new National League campaign this season.

know that nothing can be taken for granted.

Genial Villani just might cut his odds by tossing three coins in the Victoria Square Fountain.

EMERTON DEAL COLLAPSES

Australian ace Brett Emerton's hopes of playing in the Premiership are over, for now, as talks over a move to Newcastle fell through.

The Feyenoord midfielder had been set for a move to St James' Park but the 23-year-old saw the deal collapse when the Magpies insisted on paying the £8.6million (\$A24.2million) transfer fee in instalments.

"This last, surprising round (of negotiations) took only four emails,"

Feyenoord general manager Jan D Swart said on the club's official website.

The Dutch claim they would not allow the transfer because Newcastle would not provide a bank guarantee.

Swart added: "What's more, (Feyenoord chairman Jorien) Van den Herik's final answer to his colleague was a very brief one. It was basically, 'please do not waste my time in the future'.

"Under the current market conditions it is naturally

very strange to expect a selling party to make do with money that to its knowledge may not exist or may never arrive.

"The final payment would have been made as late as September 1, 2005 but it would not be guaranteed.

"The chairman of Newcastle United was very surprised that Feyenoord refused."

Emerton has also been linked with Leeds who had a bid turned down by the Dutch club.



Same old story for 'Emo', no deal to move to another overseas club.

Steve Darby on the Move

By Mark Stavroulakis

ready to take on the big guns of the Asian conference in the new Champions League.

Former Sheffield Wednesday Youth coach Steve Darby is set to coach Singapore side Home United this season after the 'Aussie' coach was 'given an offer he could not refuse'.

Having coached for well-over 22 years now Darby's main aim with his new club is to guide them through the new Asian Champions League which kicks-off next month.

Home United are scheduled to play South China in Hong Kong which will be Darby's first match as coach of the squad in terms of the new Champions League set-up.

Coaching in Asia is nothing new to Steve as 'Darbs' took on the role of coaching Malaysian side Johor and was also involved in the Vietnamese National Team set-up a while back.

ABSW will keep you updated with the progress of Steve Darby at his new club as he currently sits as the only 'Aussie' coach



Steve Darby: From coaching Sheffield Wednesday's youth squad to taking Singapore side Home United to the first-ever Asian Champions League.

Asian Games champs to play NZ

The winner of the Asian Games football competition will play Oceania Nations Cup champions New Zealand in the AFC/OFC Challenge Cup early next year.

The Asian Football Confederation said on its website that the game matching the top teams from the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) and the Oceania Football Confederation (OFC) will be played home and away.

The Challenge Cup was first contested in 2001 over one leg, with Japan beating Australia 3-0 in front of 46,000 fans at the Shizuoka Stadium.

New Zealand lifted the Nations Cup in July with a 1-0 upset victory over Australia.

The ties are likely to be played in late March or early April when FIFA have set aside dates for international friendlies in their calendar.

"The opportunity to forge closer ties with Asia is a good one and the matches should be a huge drawcard," said New Zealand coach Mick Waitt.

"The Asians displayed an ability to compete with the best in the world at the World Cup and bring a different tactical and physical approach to the game that will test us to our limits."

The Asian Games takes place in Busan, South Korea from September 29 to October 14.



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Premier League Review By Glenn Davis

Coach Bennett Adamant Easts Will Survive The Drop

By Glenn Davis

Former Soccerroo Col Bennett remains optimistic Easts can survive its home and away play off battle with first division side Souths to remain in next year's Brisbane premier league after a hard fought 1-nil relegation battle loss to Brisbane City at Heath Park on Sunday.

With wooden spooners Mt. Gravatt doomed to first division next year, second last placed Easts will meet the first division's second placed Souths away in the first leg tonight (Wednesday).

Brisbane City's Jon San-Martin gave the visitors a 1-nil lead before the break over Easts, capitalizing on a horror mistake in the Tigers' backline, which eventually sealed their fate for the play-off series.

Tigers skipper Danny Gowans had the chance to head back to keeper Robbie

Barracough or clear but his misdirected effort fell perfectly to San Martin who raced clear to slot home.

"On the day I thought we put enough effort in to earn a point," Bennett said.

"It was probably one of our better games of the season but the result was the same as it's been for the last four or five games which we've lost by the odd goal.

"It was our mistake which led to their goal. Danny could have headed it wide but got a bad touch on the ball and it was just one of those things that happen in football."

Armed with the knowledge that Easts' fighting spirit had returned, Bennett is confident his decision to choose to play away in the first round of the play-off will prove correct.

"I watched South's play against Capalaba last week and on our performance this weekend we should be able to beat them away from home," he said.



Adem Poric: Gold Coast City star scored one of his side's six goals against The Gap.

However, Bennett has been around far too long not to underestimate the underdog tag, which Souths will carry into the crucial encounter.

"Souths will go into the game knowing they have nothing to lose and everything to gain while we've got our position in the premier league at stake," he said.

Bennett and rival City coach Frank Pimblett agreed the game could easily have finished in a draw.

"We had our chance to kill them off early and they had their chance to draw on a couple of occasions," Pimblett said.

"It's the same old story that if you don't take your chances you get punished.

"It was a nothing game for us but Easts had everything on the line."

Pimblett believes Brisbane City will need to pick up its intensity for its knockout semi-final at home against North Star next Saturday night if it is to remain a grand final chance.

"We're walking a tightrope at the moment the way we are playing and we need to pick up our intensity," he said.

"We've beaten North Star three times this year, twice in the league and the other in the Queensland Cup, but only by one goal.

"Finals football is always different and when we beat them last time I recall they had four or five of their best players out."

Rochdale Rovers, which was the other side locked in the relegation fight, survived after a 2-all away draw with North Star.

Rochdale took a commanding 2-nil lead inside the first 20 minutes after goals from Aaron Watson and Taro Urabe before North Star fought back to level after Sebastian Tatchell and Shaun Blackman netted.

Rochdale's survival in the premier league was on tenterhooks for the last 20 minutes when down to ten-men after defender Dwayne Good was sent-off fol-

lowing a second bookable offence.

"It was a real battle but we knew Easts had to win against Brisbane City and they were losing early on when we were winning," said coach Keiran Cooper.

"A draw over there at Easts was no good to them and everything worked out well in the end."

Coach John Ogden is hoping the law of averages will work in his sides favour when Taringa Rovers tackles Ipswich Knights in the other knockout at Jack Spear Park on Saturday.

Taringa had a comfortable 3-nil win over Mt. Gravatt last Sunday but is yet to beat Ipswich in its two clashes this year.

Ipswich, who had a hard fought 1-nil tussle over Toowoomba at Bundamba, downed Taringa 2-nil in the first round before scoring a late goal to win the second round clash 1-nil.

However, Ogden can't complain too much considering the decimated squad he's been left to deal with in the second round.

"Everyone knows how bad it's been with injuries for us this year but it got to the ridiculous against Mt. Gravatt," Ogden said.

"I had one player we used in a full game in the colts and he backed up to play a full game in reserves and I had to use him off the bench in the main game when he came on for the final ten minutes.

"For us to finish fourth was a tremendous result," he said.

Ogden was pleased with Taringa's victory but believed the 3-nil half time score-line could have been far greater.

"We totally dominated the first half against Mt. Gravatt and the score could easily have been six by the break," Ogden said.

"Mt. Gravatt to their credit put up a fight after the break."

Taringa's Luke Morley opened the scoring ten minutes into the game before Craig Slaughter netted his 11th goal of the season ten minutes later while Steve Unsworth put the game beyond doubt on the half hour.

Queensland Lions sent officials scurrying through the record books when they wrapped up the season unbeaten with a

hard fought 3-2 win over Wynnum at Lions Stadium.

Lions led throughout after a double from Danny Flaskas and a third from Reece Tollenare, which kept Lions unbeaten with 20 wins and two draws with 62 points for the season.

"We're not sure if it is a record for Queensland soccer but we believe it might well be," said coach Miron Bleiberg.

Bleiberg gambled from the outset by resting a number of his regular players and has elected to take the team golfing next weekend rather than risk injury in a trial before the major semi final against runners-up Gold Coast at Lions Stadium on Sunday week.

The major semi-final will also serve as the Queensland Cup final between the two sides.

Wynnum sensed it had a chance of an upset when Bleiberg fielded eight of his reserve grade side but goals from Geoff Hurford and Jacob Noe was not enough to give the visitors victory.

In other results, Gold Coast, who play Brisbane Strikers in a trial next weekend, limbered up for its major semi final showdown with Lions with a 6-1 thrashing over The Gap while Ipswich downed Toowoomba 1-nil at home.



Former Brisbane Strikers player Reece Tollenare scored the match winner for the Queensland Lions in their three-two win over Wynnum.

PREMIER LEAGUE - Round 22

	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
1. QUEENSLAND LIONS	22	20	0	2	65	11	62
2. GOLD COAST CITY	22	16	3	3	67	21	51
3. BRISBANE CITY	22	15	4	3	38	21	48
4. TARINGA ROVERS	22	11	6	4	34	27	37
5. IPSW KNIGHTS	22	10	7	5	34	25	35
6. NORTH STAR	22	10	9	3	37	29	33
7. WYNNUM	22	8	11	3	27	39	27
8. THE GAP	22	4	10	8	25	50	20
9. T'WMBA RAIDERS	22	4	11	7	20	32	19
10. ROCHEDALE ROVERS	22	3	13	6	26	45	15
11. EASTERN SUBURBS	22	3	15	4	20	46	13
12. MT GRAVATT	22	2	16	4	14	61	10

Results - Round 22

BRISBANE CITY	1	EASTERN SUBURBS	0
TARINGA ROVERS	3	MT GRAVATT	0
IPSW KNIGHTS	1	T'WMBA RAIDERS	0
GOLD COAST CITY	6	THE GAP	1
NORTH STAR	2	ROCHEDALE ROVERS	2
QUEENSLAND LIONS	3	WYNNUM	2

FIRST DIVISION - Round: 26

	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
1. PINE RIVERS UTD	26	21	3	2	72	20	65
2. SOUTHS UTD	26	17	6	3	62	28	54
3. MITCHELTON	26	14	7	5	67	37	47
4. BUNDABERG WAVES	26	13	7	6	57	37	45
5. CAPALABA	26	12	7	7	62	40	43
6. ROCKLEA UTD	26	14	11	1	56	50	43
7. UNI OF QLD	25	9	7	9	49	40	36
8. INALA CITY	26	10	10	6	51	48	36
9. NEWMARKET	26	11	12	3	37	42	36
10. ALBANY CREEK	26	8	13	5	31	66	29
11. REDLANDS UTD	26	6	14	6	41	64	24
12. BRISBANE OLYMPIC UNI	25	6	15	4	19	53	22
13. GRANGE THISTLE	26	4	17	5	32	72	17
14. SLACKS CREEK	26	3	19	4	26	65	13

Results - Round 26

ALBANY CREEK	2	BRISBANE OLYM UNI	0
CAPALABA	1	SLACKS CREEK	0
INALA CITY	4	REDLANDS UTD	1
NEWMARKET	2	UNI OF QLD	1
BUNDABERG WAVES	3	SOUTHS UTD	0
ROCKLEA UTD	3	GRANGE THISTLE	1
PINE RIVERS UTD	2	MITCHELTON	1

QUEENSLAND SEMI-FINALS

BRISBANE CITY

V

NORTH STAR

QUEENSLAND LIONS

V

GOLD COAST CITY

D'AVRAY PREFERS ELEVEN LEADERS

By Richard Kreider

Current NSL Premiers Perth Glory has done away with the role of club captaincy for the 2002-03 season, and will continue with the format coach Mich d'Avray used last season of using different match captains.

Speaking at last Thursday's official launch of the Curtin University Cup tour to Sarawak, the coach said last season's highly successful rotational match day captaincy will again be in operation, with d'Avray adding that the scheme had worked well in many different elements of the game.

"Well, we only lost one game in the home and away season, so that was quite good," he said.

"The system also identified some leadership qualities in players that some people might not have expected to stand up so well."

"There was an excellent team spirit last campaign and I think the experience of leading as well as being led contributed to that. The players realised the responsibility being captain on match day can bring and I think that helped them support the other guys when the armband was

passed to someone else.

"We were very lucky at this club to have had such a leader as Gareth Naven and now it is up to every player to match the example he set, the tradition he has established."

D'Avray cited the recent Country Sport Enrichment Scheme tour of the South West as an example of what the players can achieve as individuals.

"We had groups of two or three players go off to different schools, to speak to classes as well as to conduct coaching clinics. They created a great impression on everyone and showed what ambassadors they can be for the game."

"Sometimes it is tempting for people to hide behind a nominated club captain and see it as his job and his alone to speak at public gatherings and similar events."

"We want all our players to be able to do that, to feel confident in public situations and to be able to be comfortable in that sort of environment."

"Perth Glory is about fostering a sense of community and strengthening ties with our supporters. This approach will make sure all the players do their bit."

Meanwhile, Glory have taken a couple of guest players to Malaysia in ex-Marconi

Stallions forward Royce Brownlie and young midfielder Justin Bralic from the South Australian state league side Raiders.

Bralic was the match-winner for his side a fortnight ago, when he netted the only goal against Playford Patriots to send his team into the first semi-final of the Fairmont-Bianco Top-Five Series at Hindmarsh Stadium.



The Raiders however, managed to qualify for next week's Preliminary Final against Galaxy without Bralic when then defeated MetroStars last Saturday.

Brownlie entered the NSL record books last season after scoring in eight consecutive games for the Marconi club. The 22-year old has just returned from England where he

had unsuccessful trials with division one side Sheffield Wednesday and Oldham from the second.

The trip will no doubt rekindle many pleasant memories for assistant-coach Alan Vest, since Glory are playing two games against his former club Sarawak, who are now run by Vest's former assistant Jabil Ramli. Both sides will be competing for the Curtin University Challenge Cup.

The first of the two games was played last Sunday evening where Perth Glory led twice but was pegged back each time for a 2-2 draw.

It was both the trailblazers in fact who found the net; Bralic's effort was ruled to have crossed the line after it hit the bar from close range and Brownlie deflected in Glory's second after a Nick Mrdja header caused confusion in the Sarawak goalmouth.

In between those goals a bril-

liant strike from Malaysian Olympic representative Gilbert Cassidy Gawing had leveled the score and the same player scored a clever goal from a narrow angle to make it 2-2 six minutes from time.

Left back Scott Miller was outstanding for Glory on a night when heat and humidity presented a tough ask of the NSL outfit.

Mrdja almost snatched a win for the visitors but his well-struck free kick was superbly saved by the Sarawak keeper.

His opposite number, Jason Petkovic also made two good stops at the end of the first period.

Glory was scheduled to play Sarawak again last night before heading to Miri to complete the tour, which has been sponsored by Curtin University and the Sarawak Tourism Board.

The team was cheered on by a sizeable group of supporters who have made the trip to watch their Perth heroes in action.

CAMDEN TIGERS SOCCER CLUB



COACHES REQUIRED

State League

1st Grade, Under 21 & Under 19

Super Youth & Cadet League

Under 12, Under 13, Under 14,

Under 15 & Under 17+

All Applicants must have minimum Licence Required by NSWFA and be prepared to attain next Level.

Applications in writing to

"The Secretary"

PO Box 165, Camden NSW 2570

All Enquiries:

Fred Mackechnie 02 46 557 658 or 0414 678 186

APPLICATIONS CLOSE FRIDAY 6TH SEPTEMBER 2002

A.P.I.A.-Leichhardt Tigers' Prepare For Italian Crusade

By Joseph Piazza

THE 2002-2003 Summer NSW Premier League season is rapidly appearing on the horizon.

And the A.P.I.A.-Leichhardt Tigers-Empoli Youth Academy, (Under 19's), is ready to launch a serious assault on all teams blocking its approach towards another season of impressive achievement.

Having earlier this year competed in one of Europe's most illustrious Youth tournaments, ("Torneo Viareggio" 2002- a competition that's spawned Youth talent for giant clubs such as Inter Milan, Juventus, Bayern Munich plus many other distinguished, high profile counterparts), the A.P.I.A.-Leichhardt Tigers - Empoli Youth Academy is

already gearing itself for the second consecutive year towards this magnificent Italian experience.

Having already officially formed a strong connection with Serie A Club Empoli F.C., (the current Club of Australian International midfielder Vincenzo Grella -and previously the home of Parma's recently \$23 million signed Australian International midfielder Marco Bresciano), the Tigers' Youth squad next February whilst in Italy, will train in the high class facilities Empoli has to offer.

Any of the Tigers' Youth players that manage to impress whilst over there, will be extended the golden opportunity to remain behind at Empoli to compete in the Primavera (Under 20) squad and hopefully have the chance to play for a Serie A contract.

The A.P.I.A.-Leichhardt Tigers -Empoli Technical Director and current NSW School Boys Coach, is John Romeo.

With Mr Romeo incorporating Italian training methodologies, the Apia-Leichhardt Youth squad early next February, will ambitiously embark on yet another wonderful adventure to North Italy, (The 2003 Viareggio Tournament).

Having visited Italy on a regular basis, it's quite understandable why John Romeo eagerly wants to prepare his Youth squad to reach a level where it is fully equipped to be able to 'stir the pot' and create headlines for his massively talented Australian squad.

"I go to Italy about three times a year. Thus I am fully aware of just how well we

have got to be prepared if we want to be competitive."

"Already over there, Empoli wants detailed reports from us on our progress. We are out to seriously impress them," said Romeo.

"The sheer quality of technical football that we witnessed at the last Viareggio Tournament earlier this year, was just mind boggling. We played matches against Deportivo Espanol of Colombia, plus Italian sides such as Pisa, Cittadella Padova as well as Vicenza, the team former Joey's lanky defender Mark Byrnes' plays for."

"Teams competing at Viareggio Tournaments are bigger, stronger athletic and

mobile. The Viareggio Tournament is an immense international stage when it comes to Youth football. Almost as big as the FIFA World Youth Cup," Romeo



JOHN ROMEO: Apia's Youth Technical Director.

underlined.

In the midst of this high-class football being strutted, worldwide Talent Scouts and Players' Agents screen all games. They are ever-so ready to pounce on any untapped talent at this Tournament.

Romeo concluded when he emphasised: "It's not just a chance to play amongst the elite."

"It's a golden, and very rare opportunity, to be spotted and identified by specialised people. These people possess the capacity to steer a young player's direction towards the treasured track off a real professional career."



Granville & Districts
Soccer Football
Association Inc.

SEASON 2003 SOCCER COACHES REQUIRED

Are seeking the services of suitably qualified coaches for the following representative teams:

- Men's State League Reserve & 1st Grade
- Women's State League U19 & 1st Grade
- Division 1 Youth League
- Girls U14 & U16
- U11 Association

Applications close 18th September 2002

Please send your resume to

The Secretary GDSFA

20 Bull Road, Toongabbie 2146

or email to granvillesoccer@optushome.com.au

Macarthur District Soccer Football Association Inc.



This very progressive & ambitious Soccer Association invites applications from suitably qualified people for the following positions for the Year 2003.

Representative Coaches

- | | |
|---|------------------|
| 1. Association Development Coach | — Senior Licence |
| 2. Head Coach Ladies Super League | — Senior Licence |
| 3. Reserve Grade Coach — Ladies Super League | — Youth Licence |
| 4. U12/U14/U16 Ladies Youth League Coaches | — Youth Licence |
| 5. U11/U12/Association Junior League Reps | — Youth Licence |
| 6. U13/U14/U15 & U17 Super Youth League Coaches | — Youth Licence |

Applications for the above positions close on Monday 16th September 2002

All applicants must supply details of experience, qualifications and Personal References to:

THE SECRETARY, MDSFA INC. PO BOX 951 CAMPBELLTOWN NSW 2560



A.P.I.A.-Leichhardt Tigers Empoli Youth Academy

Under 19 Open Trials

ALL PLAYERS WELCOME!

A.P.I.A.-Leichhardt Tigers are pleased to announce the establishment of the A.P.I.A.-Leichhardt Youth Academy. The Academy squad will compete in the coming summer's Under 19 NSW Premier Youth League competition.

The team will participate in the prestigious U20s Viareggio World Cup tournament in Italy in February, 2003.

TRIAL DATES ONLY!
• Friday 6th September • Friday 13th September
6.00pm at Leichhardt Park, Glover St, LILYFIELD.

For further information please call John Romeo, Technical Director of the A.P.I.A.-EMPOLI YOUTH ACADEMY on 0412 808 114.

Empoli was recently the home of Australia superstar Marco Bresciano who recently was sold for \$25 million in the off season to Parma.



Letters to the Editor

OLYMPIC TO GO?

Dear Sir,

After reading up on the issue involving the Leeds and Olympic Sharks merger in your paper, I wasn't too surprised to see the English side pull out.

How can you invest in a club or a league in that matter that has no main sponsor?

The question I think everyone wants to know is, will the Sharks survive?

I hope they do but without financial backers how can they?

It would be a shame to see the Sharks go, last season's Grand-Final winners and now

on the brink to fold all together in the National League.

One thing's for sure, if the Sharks do fold, rival National League clubs will see many talented players on the market from this squad as it boasts

some of the best players in this country.

What will be Olympic's loss will be some other National League club's gain.

The coverage on this issue in your paper has been great though, I don't think any other paper had it covered as well as you -- keep it up!

P. Simpkins
Gosford, NSW.



IT'S OVER!

Dear Sir,

Now with the Sharks losing Leeds as potential saviour for the club I have all but lost faith in seeing the club take part in this season's National League.

That was our best chance in staying in the top flight, I can't believe it's all gone now.

I hope for the club's sake that the owners do something constructive in keeping the club alive, if they fall down to the NSW Premier League, I doubt they'd be ever able to pick themselves up from there.

Like so many teams that have been relegated or folded, not many have returned to the National League!

John Kostakis
Picnic Point, NSW.

KARMA AT ITS BEST

Dear Sir,

Before I start my letter I'd like to say that I am a keen Leeds United supporter and hope they take out the Premiership this season.

Now to the main issue at hand, how great it was to see Mr Ferdinand on the sidelines for the past few weeks.

It might sound harsh but I was gleaming with joy.

After his transfer to 'MAN-

SCUM', I knew that as good of a player he is, nothing could forgive him on what he did to Leeds.

I say it's Karma at its best, here's to Leeds United for a huge season.

As for that deal with Olympic, glad it didn't happen, Leeds would have lost more money for nothing!

Elland's Number One
Supporter
From the email



MUSCAT THE LEGEND

Dear Sir,

I was quite happy to have seen a great interview in your paper last week on Glasgow and Soccerroo defender Kevin Muscat.

Richard Krieder did a great job in writing up the story but I was happy to have seen a positive article on one of Australia's best defenders.

So many people have written him off calling him a thug and so on.

He is a very rare player, not many players play with the same heart as Kevin does, yes he can get carried away sometimes but he's will to win is what makes him a quality player, he hates losing.

The interview personified the type of character he is,

strong, tough but like everyone else he's a normal human being not what other so called experts have put him out to be.

It's a shame that one of Australia's best talents to go overseas has been forever heckled about his style of play.

Football is played by men, if they don't like to get involved in that nitty gritty stuff then golf would be an ideal sport for them.

The motto I as a player have had since a young lad was 'go hard or go home', and I'll be sticking to that until the end of my career, even though it's in an association side, but then again that give's me more reason to play harder and stronger.

Ian Hodges
Wynnum, QLD.

WHO WILL BE NEXT IN THE 'I WANT IAN KNOP TO RESIGN' LIST?

Dear Sir,

The issue of politicians, ex and current Soccer Australia board members coming out in the forum calling for Ian Knop's resignation is a bloody joke.

It's a who's who of people who have said the

same thing, calling for Knop's head.

What people seem to forget is that Knop is still there and hasn't left yet! If anything I think he's become stronger especially with the Australian Sports Commission coming into it, he's won himself a few fans again.

I just hate the fact that so many people have come out and said the same thing, grow up people, as far as I'm concerned, good ol' Knoppy will be with SA for at least another year or two.

Josh Aranz
Concord, NSW.

GOODBYE KNOP AND GREINER

Dear Sir,

In the past two weeks there have been several individuals involved in the administration of soccer in this country that have called for the executive of Soccer Australia to resign.

I must concur with these

comments in particular those referring to Nick Greiner. He himself has said that he is unwilling to help the game of soccer in this country.

My question then is why is he on the board if he has no intention of helping the game. My understanding is

that as a board member of a particular organisation, you are nominated to that position because you have some vested interest in its function and success. Now I can see why soccer has not moved forward since he was elected.

My second point surrounds Ian Knop. Both Tom Doumanis and Joe Brondolino have called for his head because he has failed to fulfil his duty as chairman, while also criticising the game itself. Fair enough if you come in as a type of chairman who takes out the trash and replaces it with something better.

But so far Knop has done little more tell people what the problems are and what he IS GOING TO DO. When do you suppose he will take care of them, My guess is never?

Ian Knop in his tenure so far as chairman has proven to be type of person who can speak around an entire issue for a significant amount of time, without once mentioning the issue at hand.

Those who have criticised Knop and Greiner deserve great recognition on their part. I for one am pleased

that the opinions of the soccer loving fans are being acknowledged by people in high places and not being sat on waiting to disappear on their own accord like the problems that face Mr Knop and Mr Greiner.

Claudio Pullicino
Engadine, NSW.



Ian Knop



Nick Greiner

YOUTH IS THE ANSWER TO OUR PROBLEMS

Dear Sir,

To date I have noticed a fresh approach to the content of your paper.

Over the last few weeks, you have taken a greater emphasis on the young players coming through the ranks. This is a great idea as, it is these players that will one day be the faces of soccer in this country.

They bring a fresh enthusiasm to the game that has sadly been missing for quite some time. A combination of poor off field management and less than impressive on field results has taken the shine of the game in this country and for many people have become disillusioned by the sport in general.

However your articles are a wave of fresh air. These players play the game in its purest form. They play it because they love it and are not caught up in the politics of the game. People like this are good for the game and offer hope to the fans. They're the very future of the game and when they do turn out to be world-beaters, your paper can rightly say that you were there when they first started out.

Peter Lousakis
Prospect, SA.

HAIRSTYLES?

Dear Sir,

Just wanted to throw in my two cents worth on the issue of players grooming themselves as if they were going on a night out to play a football match.

I think it's crazy, players using tubs and tubs of wax, gel or whatever the hell they call it now-a-days before a match.

Don't they realise that during the match, they will get tired, they will sweat which mean's their hair will be ruined?

I see it all the time on the television players in Europe fixing their sideburns and so forth in looking good for the match.

I just sit in disbelief when I see them do that, I hope they realise look's don't score goals!

Steven McCann
Albion Park, Wollongong.

THE SAME OLD STORY WITH SOCCER AUSTRALIA

Dear Sir,

Once again we have seen the inadequacies of Soccer Australia coming to the fore.

In the latest episode, SA is struggling to find the necessary funds to run a National League following the dispute that saw IEC lose the rights to the national league. Over the past two seasons IEC has given SA almost \$3 million for the marketing rights of soccer in this country.

What I don't understand is why SA fought so hard to get the rights back, when they knew that they would lose out in the funding stakes. And as we have seen they are looking to generate the necessary funds for the upcoming season.

Soccer Australia is a contradiction in itself. It claims it wants to find sponsorship

for the game, yet when they do they fight to remove the sponsor for the books. Financially this is pathetic.

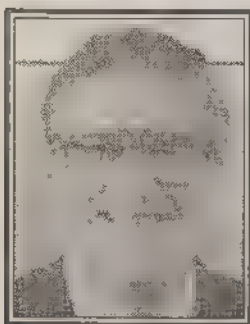
Not only does it cost money to establish sponsors, it is also expensive duelling with them once the relationship is over. The whole idea of a business is to generate profit. Sadly SA has missed this very concept and as a result is staring down the barrel.

You deserve everything you get. Hell with your malpractice, let alone lack of management skills, it is any wonder that the game is going nowhere.

Paul Doric
St Kilda, VIC.



OFF THE CROSSBAR

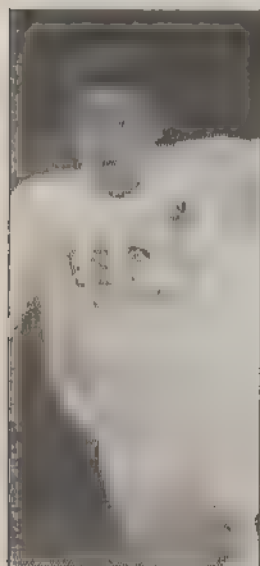


By Allan Crisp

NSL CLUBS WAITING ON PORTER

The media frenzy sparked by Aussie ruler Wayne Carey and his movements before his decision last week to join the Adelaide Crows is mirrored by the rush of interest shown by NSL clubs in Soccerro Joel Porter.

Adelaide-based agent James Tambakis, who has 30 players on his books, declared that Porter, who is available on a free transfer, would make his choice of Australian clubs this week.



Joel Porter is being chased by a number of clubs in the National League.

Tambakis said that all of the interest in Porter had that the field was now down to four clubs.

"Joel will decide which club he wants to play for it won't be my decision, I am only his adviser," Tambakis said.

"It's no secret that Adelaide City were interested, but I believe that they have settled on their squad for next season."

The rash of interest in the former Croydon Kings and Melbourne Knights star comes in the wake of his return from Spain last Wednesday after trialling for three weeks with Rayo Vallecano.

The Australian international attacking midfielder so impressed the Spanish club that he was asked to extend his trial period, but because the transfer deadline loomed

large, the club opted for a more easily attainable local player.

Vallecano coach Fernando Vasquez advised Porter to improve his fitness to the standard required by the club and that could best be attained playing another season in Australia.

Porter has accepted an invitation to return to Spain in January when the European transfer window reopens.

While all Australian clubs have made inquiries about the effervescent midfielder, cum striker, it is believed that four full time clubs are left in the running.

"Joel has his heart set on playing in Spain," Tambakis said. "The Primera Liga is his ultimate goal, but until then, he will strive to gain more experience in Australia."

Porter, 24, played for Rayo Vallecano against OFK Belgrade and Extremadura during his trial period when experienced French player Sebastian Sansoni and Dinamo Zagreb midfielder Sabic also were trialling.

However, negotiations are ongoing with Birmingham City, Strassborg and Rayo Vallecano.

FYFE BACK WITH FORCE

Adelaide City's award winning defender Iain Fyfe has completed his short trial period with Southampton and will remain with the Force this season.

Originally Fyfe's agent had Leeds United pencilled in as the trial destination, but settled on Southampton when told that the Saints were looking for a young defender for their reserve team.

As is often the case with hastily arranged trials, Fyfe was unable to gain a clearance to play in official games for Southampton, but did get a run for the reserve side in a friendly against the touring Kuwait national team.



Iain Fyfe has returned to the Force, from his overseas trials in England.

Despite showing good form, Fyfe suffered a similar problem to Joel Porter as the transfer deadline arrived before an international clearance could be organized.

Fyfe will have another crack at achieving his dream of becoming an overseas professional, but in the meantime, will present a huge, but welcome selection headache for City coach Charley Villani.

DAY AND NIGHT

Adelaide City Force has confirmed its intention to play its home matches for the first half of the new season as Sunday afternoon fixtures before reverting to Friday night games during the summer.

The plan has received favorable reaction from fans, particularly those that remember the halcyon days of the 70s when supporters packed Kensington's Olympic Sports Field on Sundays.

NO DANISH DELIGHT

Charley Villani could not believe his luck when 24-year old Adelaide University student Soren Barslund turned up for training with his Adelaide City NSL squad.

The Danish striker looked the goods when he came off the bench in a recent trial game against Para Hills Knights, to be regarded as a potential signing.

It all turned sour for the club and Barslund when he tore a hamstring at training, an injury that could sideline him for up to six weeks.

On a brighter note, New Zealander Shane Smeltz has been burning at training and in trial matches, adding his striking talents to those of Scott Tunbridge and Goran Lozanovski.

Premier League clubs Para Hills have been joined as Adelaide City's pre-season sparring partners by Modbury Jets.

Add Playford Patriots to that list when they host the Force at Ramsay Park tonight (Tuesday, September 3) from 7pm.

Both Para and the Jets felt the brunt of City's pre-season fervor, but the Force will have tougher opposition from Marconi when the Stallions link with City and Adelaide Olympic for a triangular series from September 8.

Negotiations are continuing for the SA State team to play City as a warm-up to the interstate clash with Victoria at Hindmarsh Stadium on Saturday, September 21.

LATE BURST BOOSTS EAGLES INTO GRAND FINAL

Blue Eagles marched into the Fairmont/Bianco Grand Final with a sensational last minute 2-1 second semi-final win over Galaxy, while Raiders eliminated MetroStars with an identical scoreline in the first semi-final on Saturday.

Galaxy made the running for most of the frantically fought match and snatched a 30th minute lead through an own goal by Eagles defender Tony Zito.

Flank Galaxy defender Shane Thompson created havoc in the Eagles goalmouth with a shot that hit the near post before being deflected over the line by Zito.

Blue Eagles levelled five minutes before full time through substitute Karl Guirguis, who touched home a smart move involving Jamie Perin, Frank Sergi and Michael Brooks.

Master scorer Brooks threw off the horror of being closely attended by Mark Yates and Paul Russell throughout a torrid 89 minutes to yet again bob up with a 90th minute winner.

This vital goal started with Perin, whose pass to Michael Pirone was crossed into the goalmouth where Brooks fired truly past Matthew Milosevic in the Galaxy goal.

By netting the Blues second goal in that amazing five-minute burst, Brooks repeated his Grand Final heroics of last season.

But, last Saturday, the Eagles had Gino DeLucia to thank for guiding them safely through to the big day in September with a magnificent display of goalkeeping.

DeLucia triumphed over a shaky start to repel goal bound efforts from Aaron Westervelt, Dusty McGregor and his own team mate Alex Sgro.

Galaxy now must defeat Raiders

in Saturdays Preliminary Final, a feat that the minor round champion has yet to achieve this season.

Meanwhile, the Eagles have the much needed advantage of a weeks rest to bring captain Donato Deleso, Corey Artone and Perin back to full health and fitness for the Grand Final on Friday, September 13.

RAIDERS SNUFF OUT STARS

Raiders overcame a stubborn Metro Stars to triumph 2-1 in a tough-as-teak Premier League First Semi-Final.

The Stars erased the memory of their six-goal drubbing at the hands of Blue Eagles to force Raiders into a nail biting finish before exiting from the finals.

Speedy Sam Barbaro raced through the Metro defence to earn Raiders a 36th minute lead and a deserved half time advantage.

MetroStars responded with a full-bore pressure plan from the restart, but had to wait until the 78th minute to gain a leveller from Vince Schimizzi, who completed a great move with a little help from Paul Simmons and non-stop worker Tony Scalzi.

That goal lifted Metro to greater heights before Rick Cerracchio netted a classic drive after Sam Barbaro created the opening with just three minutes of normal time remaining.

Despite the importance of the occasion, referee David Alberton kept his yellow card in his hip pocket until the 62nd minute when he decided that MetroStars defender David Menechella deserved the punishment.

Another Metro defender, Robbie Sen also was booked, but Raiders

emerged caution free to face Galaxy.

Raiders stayed in the finals hunt despite the absence of young striker Justin Bralic, whose goal put paid to Playford Patriots finals hopes, last Wednesday accepted an invitation to tour Malaysia with Perth Glory.

FAIRMONT/ BIANCO FINALS PREMIER LEAGUE FIRST SEMI-FINAL

RAIDERS2
(Sam Barbaro 36, Cerracchio 87)

METRO STARS1
(Schimizzi 78)

SECOND SEMI FINAL

BLUE EAGLES2
(Gurgulis 85, Brooks 90)

GALAXY1
(Zito, tog 30)

SA STATE LEAGUE

1st SEMI-FINAL

CUMBERLAND FOXES3
(Fowler, Villios, Gagliardi)

NORTHERN DEMONS2
(Salvenemi, Salar)

Best Cumberland: Gagliardi, Donk, Fowler;
Demons: Ainsworth, C. Alagich, Crosnier.

2nd SEMI-FINAL

ENFIELD FALCONS2
(Weir, Mulady (Golden Goal in extra-time))

CROYDON KINGS1
(tog).

Best Enfield: Costa, Weir, Rossi;
Croydon Kings: Matikulas, M Woods, Pitucci.

CITY'S CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Tuesday, Sept 3, 7pm
Playford Patriots v Adelaide City Force

(Ramsay Park, Elizabeth)
Sunday, September 8,
2.30pm

Fairmont/Bianco
Tri-Series

Hindmarsh Stadium
Adelaide City Force v
Marconi and Adelaide
Olympic

Friday, September 20,
12.30pm

Force Sponsors
Luncheon, Ram Park
Friday, September 27,
12.30pm

Player Launch and
Guernsey
Presentation

Rundle Mail, City
Sunday, September 29,
3pm

Hindmarsh Stadium
NSL Round 2
Adelaide City v Melbourne
Knights



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Applicants should have minimum senior license or similar.
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Fax: (02) 9290 1688

Applications close September 4

GEORGE NEGUS RESPONDS TO THE BACKLASH



By Daniela Raco

Acting in the best interests of the game, GEORGE NEGUS has voiced his concern over the state of mismanagement within Soccer Australia. He has been highly critical of the way the sport of soccer in this country is governed and managed, and takes a blatant stand on issues of concern.

He has put his ideas on a plate. There is no confusion. He is clear on the desperate need to regionalize the game and blow the State Federation out of the water. The exclusive interview printed in ABSW on 30 July 2002 "stirred the pot".

In came the letters, phone calls, and public opinion. Thank you. The public is the voice of Australian soccer. Your concern is an acknowledgment that we have a seriously flawed structure that needs re-building. In a follow-up interview, I speak to George Negus as he answers the critics.

THE BACKLASH

It's sadly typical of the attitude of a lot of people in the game who are clearly soccer lovers that they can bag the living daylights out of people who seriously tried to get the game out of its doldrums.

Why would people like David Hill and me offer ourselves to the game the way we did to lift its profile if we didn't seriously think that it was a plus for the game? You don't do that sort of thing for the sake of your health, and in my case I certainly didn't need the publicity. We aimed at lifting the profile of the game, and we did. Rather than destroying the game, they were four of the games healthiest years.

I grew up with Australian soccer as a kid, and played it at a junior and senior level. My family ran the local club the whole time I was on the Board of Soccer Australia and are still deeply involved in soccer at a grassroots level. My children are besotted by the game and love it so much. They are students of the game, and desperate for the game to be doing well in this country. They are typical of so many kids in this country who feel the same way.

People thought that if people

like Hill and I were interested in soccer, and involved in it, and wanting to do something to assist it in a practical way, then this game is worth doing something about. It is just a silly, sad comment to say that we destroyed the game. Are they suggesting that the game twenty years prior to that was not in the doldrums which everyone accepts that it was?

It is such a typical reaction that you get from people who cling to

years on the board of the National Body – to offer your profile, and experience, and contacts to assist the game.

If they don't think that is taking a stand...what the hell is?

I'm taking a stand right now by saying what I am to you – the interview in ABSW was Negus taking another stand to say to people – we failed to do what we wanted to do because every time you took one step forward, so many people were out there making sure you

curious the way in which this enquiry took place and wonder who approached who.

If Ian Knop, with or without the knowledge or permission of the stakeholders, took it upon himself or the board did, to ask the government to enquire into the game... then that is quite irresponsible. It is a delaying tactic.

While the enquiry is going on, nothing happens, and the people in positions of authority hopefully can avoid scrutiny.

I don't know why the Australian Sports Commission is going to be able to tell Australian soccer any more about how to get its affairs in order than anyone else.

How long are they going to take to know where all the bodies are buried, and what is wrong with the structure of the game?

How long will the enquiry take? You've only got to look at it to see that it's not working and start restructuring, and in my previous interview I suggested this. We should regionalize the game and link those regions to the National League clubs. Everything that I said in that piece was destructive of the current administration, but constructive in its suggestions about what we could do instead. If the enquiry does nothing more than rearrange the deckchairs on the Titanic then the game's going to go down again. There is every reason in the world for people to raise their eyebrows.

I have spoken to Basil Scarsella, and he is right in saying that if and when this enquiry ever happens and what it recommends, those recommendations must be endorsed by the Board and Stakeholders of Soccer Australia before anything can be done.

If they just make recommendations to the people who are responsible for the mismanagement of the game now, what does that achieve?

If they make recommendations and then ask the current stakehold-



George Negus

old soccer ways, and old attitudes, and old values about the game – despite the fact that those attitudes, values, and approaches to managing don't work.

It explains the problem – people can look at something which is not working then for some obscure reason criticise people who are aware of that and try and do something about it. It's an indication about how blinded some people can be to the reality of the situation that they obviously care about.

The saddest thing is that they are criticising people who are going out of their way for no personal benefit or gain except that they care to see the game run properly in this country and all they do is sling mud.

I would not have said what I said to ABSW for instance, if I didn't think I had an alternative. Its one thing to criticise, and another thing to criticise and suggest alternatives. If somebody has a better idea about how Australian Soccer should be structured or run, by all means say it! Slinging mud is counterproductive. That sort of silliness has been holding the game back.

MAKING A STAND

To make a stand...you can't make much more of a stand than to offer yourself for four

took two steps back.

The forces of darkness are clearly still around – when people will actually rubbish a positive attempt to assist the game that was made at that time.

THE NEGUS HILL ERA

They were four of the most high profile and worthwhile years of the game to my knowledge. People knew that soccer was around. It raised people's awareness of the game. We weren't in it for the vain glory, we were enormously busy people.

There was also the undermining of the serious attempts to get things moving by people who had a petty political and personal interest in making quite sure that whatever Negus-Hill were up to, didn't work. We had four years when people were watching what was going on very carefully, and the other codes were worried that if we woke the sleeping giant they'd be in trouble. When people talk about the state of Australian soccer, it's as though those four brighter years never happened. The response you received is a microcosm of the problem.

THE ENQUIRY

As a political journalist I find it apolitically, and incredibly

Negus believes that there's no way the Australian Sports Commission will be able to get the code in order.

DEAKIN COULD HAVE GONE FOR NATIONAL LEAGUE STATUS

By Graham Cooke

Canberra Deakin's entry into the National Youth League did not foreshadow a move by the club to seek admission to the senior competition, spokesman John Bull said last week.

Asked a question he agreed that an NSL bid would be beyond the ACT Premiership club's financial capabilities.

The official announcement of Deakin's entry into the NYL was a low key affair with officials seeking to dampen expectations that this was a natural progression to even better things.

"Our immediate aim is to firmly establish ourselves in this competition – nothing more," Bull said. "It is a very strong league. There will be 12 teams from Brisbane, Newcastle, Wollongong, Sydney and Canberra."

His caution was echoed by Soccer Canberra president Steve Doszpot, who said that with the current problems the NSL faced "if there is a good time to be out of it, it is now".

He believed that NSL entry would be a matter of the question for any single ACT club. "That raises open the possibility of a partnership or consortium of ACT clubs," he said.

"There are inherent difficulties in this, but it is something we should explore."

Bull said the current career path for talented young soccer players from the area was entry to the ACT Academy of Sport around age 15 and then progress to the Australian Institute of Sport at 17.

"Obviously only a tiny minority make it to the AIS, so we will be the natural destination for those who don't," he said.

Deakin head coach Mido Horvat said preparations had begun, but he was hampered by the fact some of the players were still playing in the winter competition. "Our first game is at home to Sydney United on September 21," he said. "We will not be at our best, but I expect us to be competitive."

"We have a talented squad involving players from Cooma, Gungahlin Juventus and Canberra Olympic, as well as Deakin all of whom are keen to play in the youth league as a stepping stone to being picked up for the NSL."

"After all, what would they be doing if they didn't play for us this summer?" Some would probably be on the dole.

CANBERRA STAR LEE OFF TO HONG KONG FOR TRIALS

By Graham Cooke

Canberra Deakin's livewire striker Stephen Lee leaves for Hong Kong today to try his luck in the local competition. Lee, who was born in Australia but has parents from Hong Kong and China, has two trials arranged and hopes to be offered a contract.

In doing so he follows in the footsteps of fellow Canberra strikers Alan Reis and Marko Perinovic who both had spells in the Special Administrative Region when it was still a British colony. Reis went on to play for and captain the Hong Kong national side.

"I was Alan who put me in contact with an agent there," Lee said. "I will miss Deakin, but I feel this is the best way to advance my career."

Lee joined Deakin at the beginning of the season having spent four years with Capital City Suns, but after just one game he damaged ankle ligaments and was out for four weeks.

"Then I had a hard job getting back into the team, because Deakin are a very good side and they were doing well," he said. "I had to play in the under-23s for a while, but eventually my chance came."

He quickly made up for lost time by forming a lethal partnership with leading scorer Zvonko Ushebrka during which he scored 10 goals in three rounds of the Federation Cup, now he hopes to worry Hong Kong defences, at least for the foreseeable future.



Matthew McKay: Striking For The Best At Brisbane



Matthew McKay

FACT FILE

Name - MATTHEW MCKAY
Age - 19
Current Club - Brisbane Strikers
Former Clubs - MT Gravatt
- QAS
- AIS
Representative Honours
- U20 & U23's Australian Squad
- QLD State Squads U13-U16
Nickname - 'Kevo'

By Mark Stavroulakis

Brisbane Strikers coach John Kosmina was one relieved man after securing the services of promising young midfielder Matthew McKay.

At the tender age of 19, young McKay was one of the Strikers regular players during last seasons National League campaign even though the youngster came to the club midway through the season.

"Before I made my permanent

move to Brisbane I spent a good year and a bit at the AIS. The place was brilliant, it was the best choice I'd made in my footballing career so far. Training twice a day really helped my game for the better. The development program they have at the AIS is the best this country has and I was fortunate enough to have been involved in it.

The switch to the Strikers happened last December. My scholarship had ended at the Institute and I thought I was ready to move onto the National League. The Strikers gave me my chance and I took it with both hands. I was disappointed at the start of my season at Brisbane as injuries did affect me for a while but I got over them.

I worked hard at training sessions and earned as much game time as possible in the first team. I was disappointed that we did not go further in terms of semi-final football however happy to have played sixteen matches".

The former AIS graduate has been happy at the Strikers since his initial move from Canberra, but more importantly has gotten on well with coach John 'Kossie' Kosmina.

"John's a coach with a lot of experience on and off the pitch, he's done a really good job for the club so far. He's helped me a lot on my game, for example has picked up things I could improve on. A coach's advice is always a good thing as they see more than you ever do".

The Brisbane Strikers squad looks pretty much unchanged

from last season, although losing veteran striker Paul Foster to retirement was a big loss for the squad.

"At this stage the squad looks pretty much the same as last season. It's a huge loss having Paul Foster retire from the club but there's a lot of good young talent currently trailing at the club, mostly from the QAS. Pre-season has been quite tough for myself, I've missed most of the hard stuff as I was involved with the 'Australis' during the off season break but in the time I had lost, I'm working really hard in gaining that match fitness back.

We've had a few trial matches against local Queensland clubs such as a Gold Coast select side, Gympie and Lismore and we are expecting more trial matches along the way before kick-off in mid September".

Young McKay might be young in age and small in size, however the youngster does pack a lot of grunt and determination with some rival National League players calling him a 'little bulldog'.

Matthew has many aims in the up and coming National League season, but hopes to finally notch up that elusive first goal in his career at top level.

"I'd really like to score some goals this season. I went close last year hitting the crossbar a few times but it would be nice to get on the scoresheet for once. On a team perspective, I hope to start as many matches as possible and hope we reach the Semis and do one better than last season".



Brisbane Strikers exciting young prospect Matthew McKay hoping for a big season in the National League this year.

The keen golfer was quite busy during the off-season break as McKay was involved in both the U20 and U23's squad that took part in some friendly matches and tournament hit-outs.

"It was quite an honour gaining not one but two call-ups for Australia. The U23's squad was brilliant, I was one of the youngest players in the side. It was great to have played alongside so many quality players that are currently making a name for themselves in the National League. Playing two matches against Colo Colo was also a great experience, I know it's one I'll never forget. A few weeks

later, taking part in the 'Australis' squad for the U20's was also a brilliant achievement. Going from being one of the youngest in the U23 squad to being one of the oldest in the U20's was a huge change. The Festival Cup was awesome, the teams and the crowds that came to watch us play was terrific. I was honoured to have been part of these two squads. I guess besides playing well in the National League for the Strikers, my aim to make the Australian squad at the next World Cup in the U20 or U23 category would be a dream come true".

A FOOTBALL BRAIN

By Ben Moring

FACT FILE

Name: Louis Brain
Age: 20
Club: Sydney United
Position: Striker
Previous Clubs:
- Adelaide City Force
- SAIS
- Modra Jets
Honours:
- Australia under-17s (Joey's)
- Australia under 20s

second in the 1999 under-17s World Cup in New Zealand.

Furthermore, the talented youngster tasted European football during trial spells at West Ham United, when Brain was sixteen and most recently at Scottish outfit, Dundee FC.

This season sees a new club and fresh challenge for the young star, making the move from the Adelaide City Force to Branko Culina's Sydney United.

ABSW's Ben Moring caught up with Louis Brain:

ABSW: Which overseas clubs have you trailed at, how has this highlighted aspects of your game that you need to work on?

"I was 16-years-old when I went to West Ham and this year went to Dundee (FC).

"The young players in Australia are equal in skill level with the young players overseas,

but they coach more technically and are more direct in what they need to work on.

"They (overseas) think quicker and the game speed is a lot quicker.

"I have been playing in the NSL since I was 16 and want to have one good year or maybe two years here playing week-in-week out and if things go well I will look to go overseas."

ABSW: What aims have you set yourself this season, how has the move from Adelaide been?

"My aims this season are to establish myself in the starting eleven and to be part of the Olympic squad (Australia under-23s).

"Sydney United training has been vigorous under Branko (Culina), he pushes us hard.

"Every player finds it hard when they move away from home, they have to settle in, but Sydney United has been excel-

lent, there are a great bunch of lads and they have helped me ease into it and have been friendly."

ABSW: What goals have Sydney United set themselves for this year?

"We (Sydney United) haven't sat-down yet to establish our goals for the season as there are a few players that Branko may bring in, but I've heard that there is a lot more depth as compared with last season.

"We are looking to make the 'Top 6' and to play to our strengths."

ABSW: That under-17s World Cup Final must hold special memories for you?

"I could tell you the finest detail of that day, down to the sponsor boards, everything. The emotion of that day was amazing, just everything about the



The brains of Sydney United this season.

whole day.

"It is something I'd like to experience again, but it is a very rare occasion."

ABSW: What chance do you think you have in regards to

breaking into the Olyroos squad?

"I think I have a good chance of making the (Olyroos) squad.

"I am confident in my own ability and if I'm on the top of my game, then I see no reason why I wouldn't be included.

"When they pick the squad, you just want to be in-form at the right time."

ABSW: How did the South Australian Institute of Sport program help you reach the level you're at today?

"Any institute concentrates on individual needs for your game. They are more professional than clubs when you are 14 or 15-years-old as you are already training four or five days a week.

"They prepare you for the next challenge in life and focus on everything, dealing with the media and nutrition and everything."

WOLLONGONG NEWS

By Otto Bader

SOCCER KICKAROUND

WOLVES ARE GROWING IN CONFIDENCE

Recent trials against formidable opposition has unearthed talent, that has so far been unknown, giving Coach Ron Corry a choice of selection, picking the best possible replacements for lost stars.

A decision is due within two weeks regarding contracts for those showing their skill on the field. A couple of local Premier League players impressed the Wolves coach.

Reports from weekly training sessions indicate an attendance of about 30 players with around 10 local boys trying their luck in gaining a place in the Wolves squad. It is very encouraging for Illawarra soccer to see a number of locals taking part in pre-season trials. In the latest midweek friendly the Wolves won 4-2 against Olympic Sharks, with all their heavyweights like Ante Matic and others, but the coach will look at it with a sombre attitude and not get carried away.

In the latest news youngster Shane Lyons (22) has signed a one year contract with the Wolves, a quality player, son of Australian International Cliff Lyons. The fans are looking forward to this new signing which could boost the squad's chances of making the six this season.

Two Sunday's ago in a trial against Sydney United both sides used a number of players. The score did not seem important; United won 3-2, with several energetic performances, goals scored were quality ones as well as the goalkeeping. The United goals came from Gabriel Mendes, Anthony Doumamis, Michael Cunico and for the Wolves, Naum Sekulovski and Sean Babic.

another Wolves junior coach Daniel Barrett. One clinic, now in its 5th week, is taking place at Loftus, Sutherland. Another Academy starts in Wollongong Thursday 17th October, day and night sessions, for age groups 10 to 15 years. For details and booking please contact Eddie Tesoro on M/P 0407 791 346 or Daniel Barrett on 0438 265 165. The schedule is planned for a 20 weeks program at Brandon Park which could lead to future top class soccer stars discovered, hopefully by NSL quality.

Juniors Success - Tarrawanna Junior Soccer Club is proud to report that several of their teams have made the soccer Grand Finals in the age groups U/11A's 2nd division, U/13's 5th division, U/14's 2nd division and the U/18's boys and girls teams. The end of the Junior soccer competitions are the Grand Finals in all divisions played last weekend.

Junior's Champion of Champions - Minor Premiers 1st divisions of State Soccer Associations take part every year in the NSW State Champion of Champions competition.

Round 1 to be played in Wollongong takes place on Sunday 15th September at Graham Park, Figtree against Saint George, Sydney versus U/10's Unanderra, U/11's Albion Park, U/12's Oak Flats, U/13's Albion Park, U/15's Oak Flats, U/16's Port Kembla and U/18's Figtree. At Ocean Park, Woonona, are playing against ST George the U/14's Port Kembla, U/14's Girls Albion Park, U/16's Girls Oak Flats while the U/17's have the bye.

Conference League Play-offs - 1st plays 3rd, 2nd plays 4th, 5th plays 6th and 7

ILLAWARRA SOCCER WEEKEND RESULTS

ICU Premier League round 21
Kiama 2 West 4 = no change in positions, the visitors too strong. Reserves 2:0, Youth 2:1
Pleaton Rangers 5 Tarrawanna 4 - goals galore, the host stays close to the top four. Reserves 3:0, Youth 1:0
Port Kembla 3 Cringila 0 = the home team stays in top four, the visitors are out of it. Reserves 3:0, Youth 1:1
Lysnigh 4 Balgownie 2 - last chance to escape relegation is gone for Bailly, Reserves 0:1, Youth 1:1
Olympic 2 Bulli 2 = not enough for Bulli to avoid the drop. Reserves 0:2, Youth 1:1
Coniston Lions 1 Kemblawarra 1 - top of the table clash, both staying first and second, one point apart. Reserves 4:2, Youth 2:2

ICU CONFERENCE LEAGUE RD 22

Northern United 2 Albion Park WE 7 = poor result in final round for the home boys, glorious finale for the champions, Reserves 1:1 (eleven), Youth 2:5
Highlands 7 Bellambi 0 = strong finish and 3rd place for the host, Reserves 5:0, Youth 3:1
Helensburgh 2 Berkeley 1 = top result for the host moving up in 11th spot, Reserves 0:2, Youth 1:1
Fernhill 3 Dapto 5 = good success for the 2nd placed visitors, Reserves 2:2, Youth 1:2
Barbarians 0 Rose 5 - very weak performance against last placed visitors, Reserves 3:3, Youth 3:2
Shellharbour City 4 Woonona 1 = successful end of season for City, Reserves 2:1, Youth 1:3
South Coast United 1 University 0 = solid win for the host no in the top eight group for play-offs, Reserves 2:1, Youth 0:1
Shoalhaven City 2 Warrilla Wanderers 7 = great win for the Wanderers, Reserves 0:4, Youth 2:2

FARINA announces U23 European Training Squad

Australia Under-23 Olympic team coach Frank Farina announced his eighteen-man Under-23 squad for the European training camp in Germany, as he seeks to further review potential players for next year's Oceania Under-23 Olympic qualification tournament.

The Under-23's will be based in Bitburg, Germany for a one-week (1-7 September 2002) training camp, which includes two matches against quality opposition Bayer Leverkusen (Germany) in Leverkusen on Wednesday 4 September and the Cameroon national team in Bitburg on Friday 6 September 2002.

Coach Frank Farina turns his attention to those Under-23 players that are predominantly based overseas, following the recent Under-23 matches against visiting Chilean club side Colo Colo for locally based players.

Forming the basis of this 'European' Under-23 team are stars from our previous Young Socceroos (Under-20's) team that competed in the FIFA World Youth Championship in Argentina in 2001, including Jess Kedwell-Vanstrattan, Mark Byrnes, Adrian

Madaschi, Patrick Kisnorbo, Gareth Edds, Luke Wilkshire, Nick Carle and Scott McDonald.

Out of the full squad, only a handful of players are playing first team football.

One such player currently making big headlines in Holland is youngster Brett Holman.

The former Joey star has played some outstanding matches for Dutch side Excelsior and from all reports suggest that the young striker has a huge future ahead of him.

Following Holman, former Wolves player Jay Lucas also looks set for a bright future at Southampton.

The tall striker has also impressed many at the Saints and is one of many young Aussies playing the trade in England.

It's come to the attention however that two players are not of overseas clubs, Mark Byrnes currently out of contract with a club but looking for an overseas move and Patrick Kisnorbo who is still under the South Melbourne name.

Questions on whether this was called a full European camp should come under the spotlight with the inclusion of these two players.

The 18-man Australian Under-23 Squad is:

Jess Kedwell-Vanstrattan GK Hellas Verona FC Italy
Clint Davies GK Birmingham City FC England
Mark Byrnes DF Out of Contract Australia
Ljubo Milicevic DF Zurich FC Switzerland
Patrick Kisnorbo DF South Melbourne SC Australia
Adrian Madaschi DF Atalanta FC Italy

Carl Valeri MF Inter Milan Italy
Luke Wilkshire MF



Carl Valeri: Currently at Serie A giants Inter Milan.

Middlesbrough FC England
Mark Tsoilas MF Utrecht FC Holland
Richard Garcia MF West Ham FC England
Gareth Edds MF Swindon Town England
Nick Carle FW Troyes FC France
Scott McDonald FW Huddersfield FC England
Jay Lucas FW Southampton FC England
Brett Holman FW Excelsior Holland
Matthew Engele FW Chievo FC Italy.



Brett Holman: Excelsior's top Aussie striker.

Shane Cansdell-Sherriff MF Leeds FC England
Spase Dilevski MF PSV Eindhoven Holland

Maebashi Mayor's Cup Squad In Full Swing

Team officials last week announced a squad of promising twelve-year-olds to tour Japan in October for the 6th annual Maebashi Mayor's Cup in Maebashi.

The players, fourteen from Canberra and two from Sydney will compete against teams from Peru, USA, Italy, Korea and Japan at the prestigious tournament, which is part of Maebashi City's annual October festival.

Many of the players are from Coerver academies in Canberra and Sydney and hope to play some extra games

against Japanese Coerver academies while they are away.

Local Canberra coaches Dennis Lund and Bernie Lustica have teamed with Zenith Football Management to assemble the squad as a part of Zenith's commitment to expanding horizons for Australia's junior footballers.

Zenith's Director of International Partnerships, Ivan Pavela, meets with Maebashi officials in Sydney today to officially accept the invitation to the tournament and introduce some of the players to the Japanese party.

THE TEAM

Steven Lustica (U/12 Div 1 Canberra Deakin, ACT)
Jack Ducommun (U/12 Div 1 Canberra Deakin, ACT)
Anthony Bekavac (U/12 Div 1 Canberra Deakin, ACT)
Robel Piscionei (U/12 Div 1 Canberra Deakin, ACT)
Christopher Johnston (U/12 Premier League Youth, Blacktown City, NSW)
Rhys Giovenali (U/12 Premier League Youth, Blacktown City, NSW)
Dean Pyke (U/12 Div 1 Brindabella Blues, ACT)

Luke Pilkington (U/12 Div 1 Brindabella Blues, ACT)
Liam Vannithone (U/12 Div 1 Brindabella Blues, ACT)
Dannock (U/12 Div 1 Belconnen, ACT)
Taylor Beaton (U/12 Div 1 Belconnen, ACT)
Zac Maybury (U/12 Div 1 Belconnen, ACT)
Thomas Lund (U/12 Div 1 TUJSC, ACT)
Lachlan Bible (U/12 Div 1 TUJSC, ACT)
Billy Sgouras (U/12 Div 1 TUJSC, ACT)
Haley Riley (U/12 Div 1 TUJSC, ACT).

By Graham Cooke

Canberra Deakin, who have lived dangerously in the closing weeks of the ACT Premiership season, came to grief on Sunday when they were beaten 3-2 by Canberra Olympic in the semi-final at Kallen Oval.

It was the first time the minor premiers had been beaten, and the loss shuts them out of next week's grand final where Olympic will play Belconnen United, 1-0 winners over Gungahlin Juventus.

These results mean the showpiece game of the season will be contested between the teams who finished fifth and sixth in the home-and away rounds. Neither would have even been in the play-offs if this had been a normal season, but with so few entrants in their principal competition, Soccer Canberra sanctioned an experimental finals series in which all eight teams took part.

Thus has certainly favoured the two late developers, and Olympic extracted full

revenge for an 8-0 thrashing handed out by Deakin in a Federation Cup tie less than a month ago.

Their hero on Sunday was striker Elia Salloum, whose season just gets better and better. He netted all three of Olympic's goals, the first a seventh-minute classic when, sensing Angelo Konstantinou was off his line, he hit a 30 metre drive which the goalkeeper dived for but had no real hope of getting.

His second came when Deakin, battling for midfield control, lost the ball, leaving him with a clear one-on-one contest with Konstantinou, which he easily won.

And the clincher came 20 minutes into the second half as Dumi Brendas exposed Deakin's left flank and crossed for Salloum to strike home.

Olympic's win was no stroll in the park. At 2-0 and the second half just nine minutes old, Andy Rakic popped up at the far post for a corner and opened the scoring for Deakin. Then three minutes after Salloum had made it 3-1 it was Rakic again, playing a fine ball forward for Steve Lee to place a strike past

David Collins.

The game had many hinges, not least in the opening 15 minutes which Deakin - without suspended top scorer Zvonko Usljebrka - dominated and a Lee header was turned round the post by Collins at full stretch.

And Olympic could have crowned the result in stoppage time when Treat Flanigan, not far behind Salloum as man of the match, set up Robbie Grande, but Konstantinou managed to get a foot to the shot.

Olympic coach Vic Fernandez said every one of his team has sweated blood. "It is the only way you beat opponents of the quality of Deakin," he said.

And he revealed that he would miss next week's grand final, having booked a ticket to South America for the middle of the week. "There was no expectation at the beginning of the season that we would get this far," he said.

"But it's only one game, and all the preparations have been made. I will be glued to the phone to hear how they get on."

Salloum said afterwards the hat trick came

as a result of knowing the way Konstantinou played. "I caught him out three times, and I'm delighted," he said.



Andy Rakic was one of Canberra Deakin's stand-out players during their match with Canberra Olympic.

"This has been a season that improved as it went on. I'm getting so much support and service from the people around me it has boosted my own form.

"So many good players left at the end of last season I was in two minds about going myself, but I'm happy I made the correct decision.

"We are a very young side and if we stay together next season we are going to be even better."

He had no great ambitions to play at a higher level. "If I'm asked to trial I will give it serious consideration, but for the moment I'm playing to enjoy myself," he said.

In a tight and tense game at Woden Park Oval, Belconnen edged past Juventus, the only goal coming late in the game from substitute Lee Rupit, set up by Matthew Kemp.

Other grades: Under 19, Capital City Suns 1 Belconnen United 0, Canberra Olympic 3 Canberra Deakin 2. Under 23, Belconnen United 1 Gungahlin Juventus 0, Tuggeranong United 1 Canberra Deakin 0.

Exclusive: SHARKS SIGN FUTURE STAR

FACT FILE:

Name - MATTHEW HILTON
Age - 16
Current Club - Olympic Sharks
Former Clubs -
 -Palm Beach
 -Gold Coast City
 -QAS (2 seasons)
Representative Honours -
 -U17's Joeys '02
 -U20's Australia '02
 -QLD State Squads

By Mark Stavroulakis

The Olympic Sharks have invested well in securing the services of young teenage star Matthew Hilton on a 3-year contract.

The Queensland-born striker has been a target by many National League clubs, but it was last year's Grand-Finalists that prevailed the winners in the end by wrapping up the youngster on a three-year deal.

The Brisbane Strikers were odds on favourites to land the hot

property star but young Hilton chose the big city of Sydney moving him away from his hometown in Queensland.

"I think Sydney is a better state soccer wise, and the Sharks are always known to giving youngsters a chance and that is why I chose Olympic. Pre-season on a personal note has been pretty good, I've been doing a lot of my own thing but now signing up with the Sharks enables me to start training with the rest of the squad".

The keen surfer made his debut for the Sharks last week at Brandon Park when Olympic met the Wollongong Wolves with the result unfortunately going the home side's way four-two. Matthew however started the match and from reports really impressed the coaching staff at Olympic.

Coincidentally, Hilton spent two seasons at the QAS and in his first year had current Sharks mentor Gary Phillips as head-coach of his side.

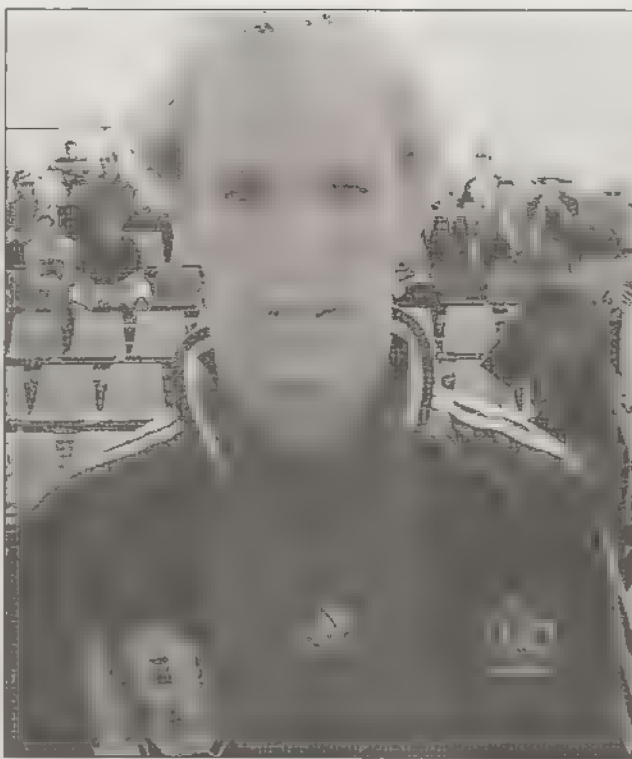
"I've known Gary from the QAS, we get along really well, he's a great coach with some terrific ideas, one of my other reasons for coming to the Sharks

were due to him as well".

Having hit the back of the net 19 times with the QAS during last seasons National Youth League campaign, it's no wonder many clubs were after the striker,

as his eye for scoring goals is what makes him a class above the rest.

During the National League off-season, young Matthew was involved in the Festival Cup with



Remember this face, young Matthew Hilton set to take the National League by storm at the tender age of sixteen!

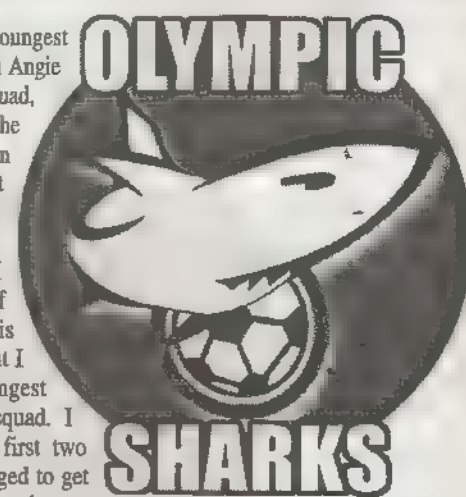
the 'Australians.'

Being the youngest member in coach Angie Postecoglou's squad, Hilton relished the opportunity in playing against quality opposition.

"I did okay I guess starting off the bench is always tough but I was the youngest player in the squad. I think after the first two matches I managed to get into it more and was happy to have scored a goal in the final against the Glasgow Rangers. The tournament itself was brilliant, I hope there will be more of these to come in the near future in Australia".

Having represented Australia at U20 level, the former Gold Coast City star is almost a certainty in Angie's squad for the U17 Joeys side this season.

The squad will start its trial proceedings after the National Titles in Sydney with Hilton having the advantage of playing in a first grade squad in the National League.



Overseas clubs have already kept a close tab on the youngster but Matthew believes making his mark in the National League is his first priority.

"I had the chance to go to England with Derby County but nothing eventuated from that. I really want to concentrate in the next three seasons with Olympic. Playing first team football and playing as many matches as possible is what I want to achieve. Also making the final cut-off squad for the Joeys would also sum up a good year".

ITALIAN AFFAIR

By Joe Russo

It's official and it's a disaster. Italian football has had a horrible few months and it just seems to get worse.

It all started back when the Koreans scored that goal in the World Cup and the great pretenders, the overrated and overpaid Azzurri, were eliminated.

Did anyone seriously think that given their performances in their four games they deserved better? Italy only won one half of football in the World Cup and it was the first half of their first game against Ecuador.

At least they are consistent on the international front. Two weeks ago in a friendly encounter at home in Trieste they lost one nil to Slovenia.

On the domestic front it has been a turbulent off season. Everything that could have gone wrong has. No football, plenty of news and the Serie A is bordering on becoming a farce.

Once it was the greatest league in the world and home to players such as Maradona, Platini, Zico, Rummenigge, Van Basten, Gullit, Matthaus, Klinsmann, Boniek, Tardelli, Baresi, Rossi, Maldini, Baggio, Ronaldo, Batistuta and Zidane just to name a few.

However, times have changed and the Serie A is well and truly in a slump. In recent times Italian clubs have failed in Europe, whereas once they dominated every competition.

The English Premier League, the Spanish Liga and the German Bundesliga, have all produced better teams on the European stage in recent years. Surely the Serie A cannot be fourth? Sadly it resembles more fourth than first these days and it needs to re-invent self.

This year, if the season ever gets under way, will be a year to re-build. Italian clubs need to win in Europe and the marketing and television experts need to learn something from England.

The English Premier League is so

far ahead of the Serie A in terms of television appeal and marketability, that the best Italy can hope for is to emulate the English.

The Premier League can't get enough television exposure; there are games shown live all over the world and if they could play them everyday they would.

The Serie A is going in the opposite direction. They are television shy and going backwards. Rupert Murdoch's BSkyB pays a fortune for the Premier League and would pay even more if they had to.

The Italian broadcaster RAI is offering less than last season for the Serie A matches and so too is the pay TV network that owns the rights. With this television impasse still going on, the start of the season has been set back two weeks. There are some, such as Perugia coach Serse Cosmi, who feel that it could even be longer.

The smaller clubs want more money, the bigger clubs attract the subscribers to pay TV and they have

all decided to go on strike in sympathy. The television channels want to pay less because it is simple demand and supply. The product isn't as good as it once was, no matter how you try looking at it.

This delay only frustrates the supporters of Italian football. While it may have little impact in Italy, on the international market it makes the Serie A look very amateurish. Meanwhile, the English Premier League flourishes and television networks can't get enough of it.

It has been the off season from hell in every sense. Straight after the World Cup the Azzurri claimed that the referees robbed them. Instead of admitting graciously that they hadn't played well, they decided to sulk.

Then came Luciano Gaucci, the President of Perugia, and his incredible statement. Sack Korean Ahn Jung-hwan because he dared to score the goal that eliminated Italy. What was he meant to do? Perugia a few days later did a backflip but the damage was done. The world saw Italy as

sore losers.

Then Brazilian World Cup hero Ronaldo fought with Inter coach Hector Cuper and now has his heart set on Real Madrid. The fact that he will still be playing at Inter is irrelevant. The damage is done and it can't be good for club morale. Ronaldo doesn't want to play there and everyone knows it.

Then comes Chievo's star Brazilian Eribeiro aged 23, but he is actually called Luciano and is aged 27. He is a fake and has taken everyone for a ride. Given what players such as Alvaro Recoba went through for having a false passport, it can't be good for Eribeiro or Luciano or whatever his name is.

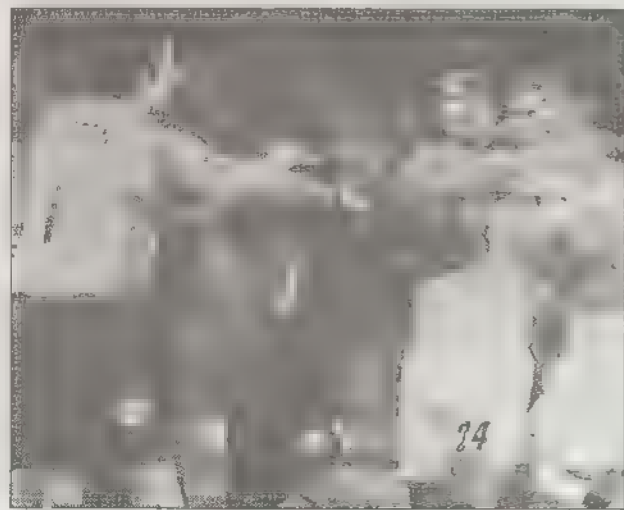
Fiorentina have also made headlines but only because they were declared dead and buried. A once glorious Serie A club that was relegated at the end of last season, is now a Fourth Division club under a slightly different name and with new management.

The final insult for Italian fans was that the Italian Super Cup, the equivalent of England's Community Shield, between Juventus and Parma was played in Tripoli, Libya last week.

The Italian Football Federation justified it by saying they were taking the game to the world. Hardly.

A company associated with Libyan leader Colonel Gaddafi owns part of Juventus and Gaddafi's son wanted it there as his own P.R. exercise. Nothing more. The Italians obliged and played on a field that resembled a desert. Surely there are venues in Italy, especially in cities south of Rome that rarely see top class football, where the game would have been a sell out.

In all in all it can only go one way for Italian soccer and that is up. It has been an horrendous few months. Once the season kicks off, let's just hope that the quality of the soccer makes everyone forget these off-field dramas.



Fans can't wait any longer for the start of the Serie A. No doubt more jostling and action will be evident in this season's campaign in Italy as shown here from the match between Juventus and Lazio.

SOCCER WOMAN

- BY JANENE MAR -

NO TIME TO RIT BACK IN ANY

The Young Matildas' exploits to place fifth in the inaugural FIFA U19 Women's World Championship have made us feel proud about ourselves on the world stage. Those involved deserve to bask in the glory for some time longer.

The team of eighteen under the guidance of coach Mike Mulvey became the first female Australian side to win a match at a FIFA event, and then the first to progress past the group stages.

They then came within a whisker of making it to the semifinals but for a golden goal from the Brazilians, and in so doing have finished a record fifth.

The Australians drew the praise of others who were there to witness the Young Matildas after many considered them to be merely making up the numbers.

The FIFA U19 Championship is scheduled every two years (not four like the World Cup), which is very exciting and a brilliant opportunity for today's young players. But it is also very daunting. There is absolutely no time to waste. Ongoing and continual top class development of our youngsters is a premium priority if we are to have any hope of being near to maintaining the status the 2002 Young Matildas have set.

A program of regular international competition and professional nurturing of our young can only help Australia's cause at all levels, from grass-roots to the continued future success of the Matildas.

FIFA U19 WOMEN'S WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

QUARTERFINALS:

24 Aug: Brazil 4 def Australia 3 after extra time
 25 Aug: USA 6 def Denmark 0
 25 Aug: Canada 6 def England 2
 25 Aug: Germany 2 def Japan 1 after extra time

SEMIFINALS

29 Aug: USA 4 def Germany 1
 29 Aug: Canada 1 def Brazil 1 set, 4-3 penalty shootout

3RD PLACE PLAYOFF

1 Sep: Germany 1 def Brazil 1, 4-3 penalty shootout

FINAL

1 Sep: USA 1 def Canada 0 after extra time

NATIONALS THE BEGINNING

You couldn't have asked for a better lead-in to this year's National Junior & Youth Championships than the Young Matildas' inspiring efforts in Canada.

This is where the preparations for the U19 World Championships of 2004 and 2006 begin.

Nineteen teams converge on Coffs Harbour for the Nationals at 14 years and 17 years, making every player at this event aspiring Young Matildas for future World Championships.

The Technical Study Group, first introduced last year, will be on hand to scout the talent on show.

ACT, NSW, NSW Country, Northern NSW, NT, QLD, SA, TAS, VIC and WA will all be represented, Northern Territory contesting only the Juniors and all others fielding teams in both age groups. The Championships kick off this Sunday at Coffs Harbour International Stadium, with the finals set down for the following Saturday 14 September.

USA ON THEIR MIND

The Matildas have been in training camp at the AIS for a week now, the squad of 22 brought in by AIS/National Coach Adrian Santrac vying for selection in the 18-member team to compete in the Nike US Women's Cup in America in a month's time.

The team will be announced before the camp concludes on 11 September. Santrac named the initial squad in conjunction with eleven more AIS Scholarship athletes, after the first eight scholarships were awarded in late June.

Three Young Matildas - Luisa Marzotto, Caitlin Muñoz, and Thea Slatyer - gain their first AIS Scholarship and an opportunity to break into the Matildas side. Young Matildas captain Kate McShea regains her AIS Scholarship, already a seasoned senior international.

Initial Squad (18 of 22 to compete in Nike US Cup)

Dianne Alagich, Melissa Barbieri, Rhian Davies, Heather Garrook, Kelly Gosciniowski, Pam Grant, Petra-Claire Hepperlin, Olivia Hobake, Tal Karp, Cassandra Kell, April Mann, Luisa Marzotto, Kate McShea, Caitlin Muñoz, Joanne Peters, Cheryl Salisbury, Thea Slatyer, Anissa Thnn, Natalie Thomas, Gill Thomson, Sacha Wainwright, Amy Wilson.



"United they Stand"



MY MacFOOTBALL MEMOIRS

By Richard Kreider

*A*h, Scotland...land of the kilt, Tennants and Tunnocks, breathtaking highlands, whisky distilleries and football, football, football.

And what a refreshing change it was to say the word 'football' to aficionados of the round ball code. Les Murray of the Soccer Broadcasting Station (SBS TV), says 'football' and says it persistently and without remorse. So, why don't more people use it?

Rugby is called rugby and cricket is cricket wherever it is played in the world - but in Australia we have to call the world

game, soccer!

Perhaps we diehards should band together and encourage the use of a word that has been around as long as the game has played with a round ball and not a makeshift idiom that was derived supposedly from another word (association)

Just because another code, which employs as much use of the band as the foot chooses to call their code football, we poor souls have capitulated without a whimper - simply to differentiate our football from the Australian variety.

Anyway, enough of the whinging. Yours truly decided to take a month's sabbatical in Scotland and apart from the touristy bits with my lady friend, which included the Edinburgh Tattoo and

an invitation to a civic reception with the Scottish Commonwealth Games athletes, I had a terrific time catching up with as many Australian footballers as I was fortunate enough to locate.

Whilst I am grateful to the Rangers club especially, for going out of their way to let me speak to Kevin Muscat, I am extremely relieved that the other 'giant' of Scottish football, Celtic, didn't have any Aussies, since their so-called 'public relations' people did everything in their power to put me off their club for an extremely long time.

But that's another story!

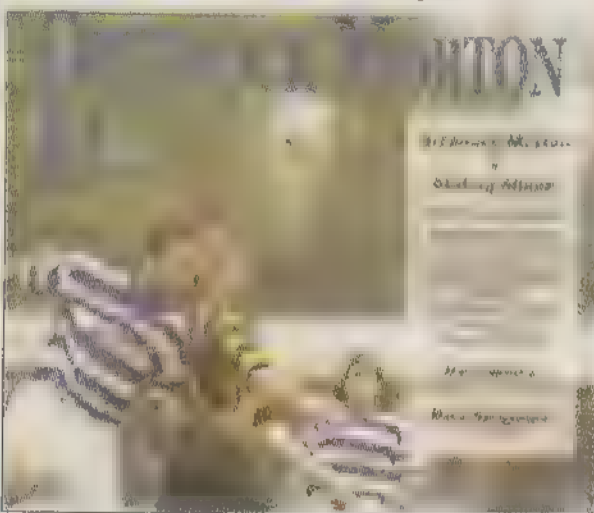
Here are my Scottish football exploits in diary form:

July 25

Just hours after arriving in Greenock and after undergoing a marathon journey from Perth WA to Glasgow, I travelled across town to Cappielow Park where I met former Scottish international and ex-Carlton coach Dave McPherson in his office that was still a few weeks away from a complete makeover.

Last season, which included relegation to the Scottish third division, the entire complex looked the worse for wear before the chairman bought the club and since given it a full revamp.

Dave explained to me about how low the club sank, in terms of morale and being financially destitute, but how optimistic he was of Morton gaining promotion this season, with new players like Finnish U21 midfielder Jani Uotinen and former Youth International John Maisano, who Dave says, has "lifted the team spirit."



G r e e n o c k
M o r t o n

July 28

Took the train and underground to Ibrox to see Rangers take on Serie A giants AC Milan in a superb game which ended 2-2. A crowd of 40,411 was easily captivated by the silky skills that were on show before them.

Names like Ronald De Boer, Claudio Cannigia, Shota Arveladze, Peter Lovenkrands and Lorenzo Amoroso for the 'Gers, while the multi-billion lire Italian outfit consisted of such luminaries as Paolo Maldini, Gennaro Gattuso, Rui Costa, Andrei Shevchenko and Clarence Seedorf. Socceroo Craig Moore had a solid game as sweeper, while Muscat was rested.

The underground trip back to the city was an experience in itself, where it was crammed with so many people; it would have made a sardine claustrophobic.



R i c h a r d
K r e i d e r

July 31

Drove to Dumbarton to check out the historic castle as well as Strathclyde Homes Stadium, home of the SFL second division football club of the same name.



S t r a t h c l y d e

August 6

Drove to Cappielow Park to watch an entertaining Bells Cup first round clash where home side Greenock Morton edged out Stirling Albion 3-2 and move into the second round the following Tuesday; where they lost 1-0 at Queen of the South with eight men and minus the Maisano brothers because of an injury to Marco and John had tonsillitis.

I chatted to John and Marco after the Albion game where they told me how they are enjoying their time at the club by the River Clyde.



J o h n
M a r c o M a i s a n o

August 9

Visited Murray Park, the breathtaking training facility of Rangers, where I interviewed Kevin Muscat. You can't help but get a buzz out of watching the cream of the club stroll past to head home, after a solid workout. We also met their gentleman 'gaffer' Alex McLeish.



R a n g e r s
K e v i n M u s c a t

August 11

Relaxed at home and watched the season's first live football match broadcast on free-to-air (BBC Scotland) television between premier division sides Hearts and Hibernian, which went 5-1 to the former.

August 13

Caught up with ex Perth Glory midfielder Ivan Ergic at Glasgow Airport, when he arrived in town with his Swiss club FC Basel before getting into a coach and off to his hotel to wind down, prior to a 6pm training run at Celtic Park, where I had arranged an interview.

I rang Celtic three times to seek confirmation of the meeting but as yet, I am still waiting for a reply - after being promised a call-back each time.

Alas, however, our Ford Ka (which looks more at home in a cardboard box than a garage) decided to let off a lot of steam on the M8 and we were consequently stuck on the hard-shoulder for almost four hours during rush-hour. Needless to say, I have still to catch up with the talented midfielder.



I v a n E r g i c
t o c a t c h u p w i t h
e x - P e r t h

August 14

Watched Celtic defeat FC Basel 3-1, live on BBC Scotland. Ergic was replaced after an hours play, but not before he gave the Celtic goalkeeper a few heart-stopping moments in the first-half, with a couple of trade-mark raids into the Hoops danger-zone.

August 20

Arrived back in Australia in the early hours and watched NSL premiers Perth Glory cut up local State League side Inglewood United 7-0 later that evening before collapsing into the mattress when I got home.

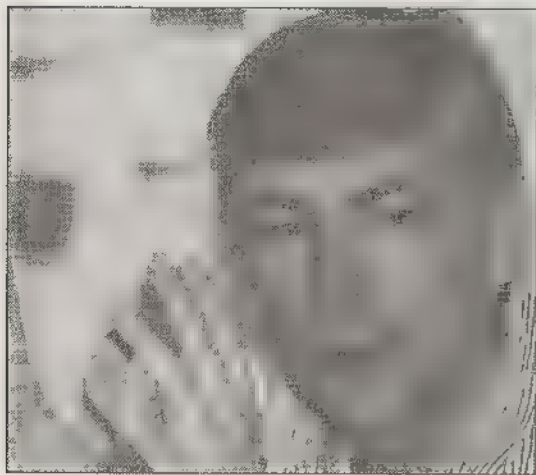
Ah, Perth...land of the barbie and bikini, Swan Lager and soccer, soccer, soccer!

Well, almost!



WORLD NEWS & GOSSIP

Wenger wants elite Euro league



Arsene Wenger: Arsenal's head coach.

Arsenal boss Arsene Wenger has called for "a real Champions League" of 10 clubs in order to satisfy the demands of supporters and TV networks.

The format of Europe's premier competition will be changed again next season as the unpopular second group stage gets scrapped to reduce the number of matches.

But Wenger is still unhap-

py with Uefa's proposals and says that what he really wants is an elite league for the select group of national top-flight winners.

"I believe we want to go forward and create a European League because that would create real interest for the television companies," said Wenger.

"We mustn't kill domestic leagues and must retain the link between the national leagues and Europe. That's why we have to create a shorter European League of nine or 10 clubs, a real Champions League, even if that means getting bigger squads.

"People want to see the best teams against the best teams, and they need to be convinced that's what they're seeing."

Brehme out after Kaiserslautern's poor start

Former German international Andreas Brehme has become the first coaching casualty of the Bundesliga season after being sacked by Kaiserslautern following a string of bad results.

Kaiserslautern, with just a single point from their first three games, said the club's board had met late on Sunday and decided to sack Brehme.

The club also announced the departure of chairman Juergen Friedrich.

Brehme was capped 86 times for the German national side in a 10-year span from 1984 to 1994 and was part of the German side that won the World Cup in 1990.



Former German international Andreas Brehme has become the first coaching casualty after being sacked by club Kaiserslautern.

The 41-year-old had been Kaiserslautern coach since October 2000, succeeding Otto Rehagel, and led the side to the semi-finals of the

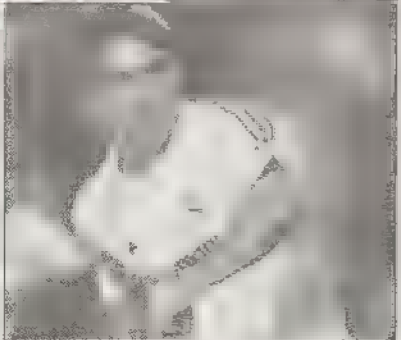
UEFA Cup. But the side failed to qualify for the Champions League during his two years in charge.

SAVIO MAKES BORDEAUX LOAN MOVE

Real Madrid winger Savio has cut his losses at the Bernabeu and joined Bordeaux on a season-long loan deal.

The Brazilian has been little more than a squad player since joining the European Champions five years ago and has only made 105 league appearances — many of them as substitute.

And although his deal with Bordeaux is only for one year, Savio's current contract with Real expires at the end of the season and it remains to be seen if he will return to the Spanish capital.



Savio has joined Bordeaux on loan this season.



Liverpool coach Gerard Houllier has stated that he will play with three strikers this Premiership

Houllier - We will play three strikers

Gerard Houllier has admitted he won't be afraid to unleash Michael Owen, Emile Heskey and El Hadji Diouf as a three pronged strike force in the Premiership this

All three players started against Southampton on Saturday, with Heskey operating in a left midfield role supporting the front two, but the Liverpool boss has revealed he may experiment with three strikers in some games.

Houllier said: "We will sometimes play with three strikers, you can do that if they understand that they can't just stand there in front of the D of the

penalty area, all lumped together.

"If they do that then you may as well just play one up front. They have got to have movement, and it has got to be intelligent. For instance, I keep saying you don't have to be a natural winger to play wide, you just need intelligence.

"I don't think David Beckham is a natural wide player and he prefers to play inside, but he is very effective playing out there. So is Ray Parlour, who is not a natural wide player either. It is a question of being intelligent and adaptable, and that is what I'll want when we have three front players."

Effenberg Hits Back After Beckenbauer Criticism

Steffen Effenberg has hit back at criticism from his former club Bayern Munich's president Franz Beckenbauer.

The German legend made fun of Effenberg's fitness as he made his debut for Wolfsburg in a defeat to newly promoted Arminia Bielefeld. In a television interview Beckenbauer said that Effenberg wasn't a great help to Wolfsburg because of his lack of fitness.

Effenberg responded in typical fashion: "Since two years ago I don't take any notice of his comments. Everybody knows what comes out when he opens his mouth. He will never learn."

Effenberg's contract with Bayern Munich ended in May, and ten days ago the playmaker sensationally signed for Wolfsburg.

Get A Defender, Zidane Tells Real Madrid

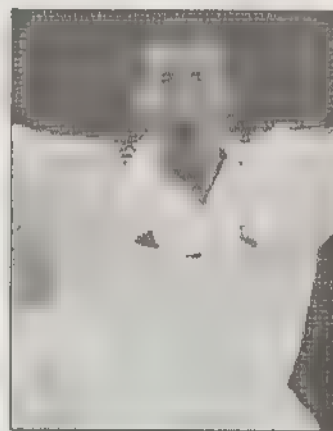
Zinedine Zidane sensationally criticized his club's transfer policy in an interview with France Football.

"I really wonder who Real will sign in defence", he said, before pointing out he noticed "many players who left have not been replaced", leaving "gaps in defence".

Even though he sees Ronaldo as a "perfect" addition to Real's million-aire squad, Zidane insists the departing Sanchis, Karanka and Geremi have not been replaced with decent new imports.

"And I don't understand how Claude Makelele can be linked with Inter for so long only to be denied a move in the wake of the Ronaldo transfer saga", Zidane added.

Real Madrid kept their ambitions to win "everything" this year but they have not completed a single signing



French superstar Zinedine Zidane has told club Real Madrid to buy a top defender for the up and coming Spanish

this summer. Players fear the lack of squad depth could harm their chances.

PSG - RONALDINHO 'STRUGGLING'

Paris St Germain reckon their struggling Brazil ace Ronaldinho is a lot worse after a long trip home to play in a friendly against Paraguay.

PSG's doctor Hakim Chalab, said the 22-year-old striker should never have made the marathon trip just to celebrate Brazil's World Cup triumph.

"I have always been against his departure for the friendly against Paraguay simply because he was not in top form," Chalab told Le Parisien.

Ronaldinho has struggled to regain anything like top form since the World Cup. He missed PSG's first



PSG's Brazilian ace striker Ronaldinho is struggling with injury which could sideline the 22-year-old.

two matches of the new campaign and when he eventually took the field he turned in only an average performance against Ajaccio 10 days ago.

"When he left (for the Paraguay match) he was at about 65-70% of his real potential and now he is under 50%, but that is quite normal after such a trip," said Dr Chalab.

"The more you spend time abroad the more time you need to recover.

"On average, it is necessary to have one day of rest for every hour of jetlag and between France and Brazil there are five hours difference."

NEW SOUTH WALES FOOTBALL

www.soccernsw.com.au



NSW SUPER LEAGUE PRELIMINARY FINAL by Greg Stock



HAJDUK WANDERERS ...2
(Mark Abi-Arrage 50', 73')

FRASER PARK1
(Antonio Faria 16')
at Hajduk Stadium

By Greg Stock

Mark Abi-Arrage doesn't score too many goals. In fact, he hasn't scored one at all this season, let alone two, and certainly not in a game as big as this.

In front of his home crowd at Hajduk Stadium, Abi-Arrage bobbed up not once, but twice in the space of 25 minutes to score the goals that sent his beloved Hajduk to the Grand-Final.

While the goals themselves were not out of an English Premier League highlights reel, they were



Hajduk captain Mark Abi-Arrage led the Wanderers to a Grand Final berth.

Hajduk Wanderers v Fraser Park Jets



Antonio Faria got Fraser Park off to commanding start.

enough to find the target, and in these sorts of pressure cooker matches, that's all that counts. Just after half-time with his side down 1-0, he scored his first.

It was as simple as it was effective, a corner from Gonzalez which was met by the unmarked Abi Arrage at the near post to drive his header low and hard into the corner of the net. If you think that was straight forward, his second was cast in a similar vein.

A defensive error by Fraser Park in trying to clear a corner found Abi-Arrage trailing back, unmarked between two defenders. With the ball played by Trent Worrall straight to him, he turned and sent a tame right foot shot forward, beating an

advancing Chris Giannangelo all ends up.

While Abi-Arrage and his team mates played out the remainder of the second half like their lives depended on it, they did concede they were a tad lucky to have the game go their way.

For long periods of the first half they looked like passengers as Fraser Park created a number of chances that could have had the game neatly parcelled up their way at the break. But instead of race away to a 1-0 lead, the Jets forwards lacked the composure in front of goal to put the issue beyond doubt and were ultimately made to pay the price.

Their only goal of the match, coming via a Antonio Faria one on one with goalkeeper Daniel



Gabriel Gonzalez shields well from Jack Sobczyk.

Schwarzer, when Faria followed through a Derek Poirner shot. But while their first half was strong their second was anything but, as the roles were completely reversed, Hajduk seizing most of the initiative and allowing the Jets the task to try and come back.

Fraser Park coach John Sentas even resorting to former Stoke City midfielder Ian King in a bid to find the net, replacing the tiring Emmanuel Papageorgiou in just his first run since round six. But even King was unable to breach the tough Wanderers defence as the final few minutes were played out with the ball deep inside the Hajduk back third.

Without the services of George Zabetakis, Mathew Percy and Ante Moric, it was a very sub standard second half as the past few weeks of elimination football finally caught up.

While captain courageous Abi-Arrage drew the most attention in the post-match celebrations, it was left to their quietly spoken coach, former Soccerroo Tom McCulloch to have the final say. "It was a very inspiring win" said McCulloch.

"Our first half was lamentable but our second was up there with the best we have played all year and the boys deserve a lot of credit for fighting back the way they did. It could have been all over at half-time, but they showed they just won't lie down and that's what this team is all about."

HAJDUK WANDERERS: Daniel Schwarzer, Scott Bailey, Robbie Kuman, Mark Abi-Arrage, Tim Gledhill (Ryan Manente 89'), JJ Ellul (Simon Zahra 34'), Peter Farac, Trent Worrall, Stephen Scotti (Steve Jordan 79'), Brendan Salameh, Gabriel Gonzalez, Coach Tom McCulloch.

FRASER PARK: Chris Giannangelo, Alex Leris, Jack Sobczyk, Jake Flower (Max Sevares 66'), Daniel Borg, Derek Poirner, Antonio Faria, Glenn Sprod, Emmanuel Papageorgiou (Ian King 71'), Kindess Agwu (Ali Jomaa 88'), Philip Gregorace, Coach John Sentas.

CAUTIONS: Hajduk Wanderers - Farac 85' Fraser Park - Sprod 54' Sevares 71'



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* All information is courtesy of the
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NSW Super League

NSW SUPER PRELIMINARY FINAL by Carlos Furtado



WOMEN'S SUPER LEAGUE FINAL

Golden Goal Seals Women's Super League Title

MARCONI 1
 Julia Bazi (112min, Golden Goal)
NSW ACADEMY 0

By Joann Boyd

It took Marconi 112mins and Golden Goal from Julia Bazi, to secure the NSW Women's Super League Title for 2002. The might of Marconi took on the Young Guns of the NSW Academy in front of a crowd of 395 at the Serbian Centre, Bonnyrigg on Sunday.

The first 20mins were a settling period with both teams seeing what each other had. It was not until the 12min that the crowd was treated to a Marconi shot that went wide of the mark, & at the 18-min a good save was made by the Young Academy Goalkeeper, Nikki Pichon.

Then it was the Academy that went looking for a goal to open their account when Emma

Howes found herself in front of goal only to be solidly block by the Marconi Sweeper and Captain Lisa Collins.

Stepping up the pace, the Academy's Leah Blaney showed brilliant and close controlled footwork to produce many decisive runs down the right flank only to run into the experience Marconi defence.

Marconi's Keeper, Erin Hunter, was strong in her conviction in going high above the Academy attacker to make a great save from a corner. She was then kept on her toes when Kylie Ledbrook's shot went just wide and with Nicole Kimber attacking strongly into the 18-yard box.

At the 35min mark the Academy's Briony Holcombe had the best chance of the half when the Marconi defence allowed her to run at and through them into space before finding herself clear in front of goal.

But a lightning run of 15 metres from Marconi's left back, Alison Hogg, saw the shot foiled with another very solid block tackle. But the Academy still had the advantage of playing the ball in the Marconi defensive third, and it took some good keeping by Hunter to keep the Academy scoreless for the first 45mins.

The first 30mins of the 2nd half became stagnant with no team willing to advance forward and attack. The ball seemed to be played wide across the flanks of the midfield with the only real chance coming from a screamer of a shot from Marconi's Joanne Burgess.

Her strong run at the defence resulted in a shot that rocked the foundations of the post before going over the line for a goal kick. This was now the time that the young backbone of the Academy had to show their maturity as Marconi step up the pace with the constant urging of the Marconi Coach Leigh Wardell.

The pace of the game picked at the 75min mark with a flurry of attacking moves by both teams for the last 15mins. This period also saw two yellow cards given to the Academy's Nicole Kimber and Marconi's Kristine Collins both for soft tackles. This added to the two Yellow Cards earlier shown to Marconi's Amanda Poulten and the Academy's Natlie Spivovski.

The resultant freekick from Kimber's challenge saw Kristine Collins shot go across the face of the goal, and wide. Pichon then sent the

ball up for the Academy to attack but the toughness of the Marconi squad saw them quickly win the ball back sending it out wide to the left flank to find Wendy Graham. Graham then made a lovely run, passing the ball to Amanda Poulten who squared up the shot only to have Pichon make another save.

Marconi again attacked this time by switching play to the right side for Julia Bazi to take a well timed shot from outside the 18 yard box, which again went wide of the mark. Marconi's Kristine Collins then gave away a free kick for

right only to be solidly challenge and brought down just outside the 18yd box. Bazi was hurt in the challenge. This break in play gave all players the time to re-gather and take a well rest after a torrid 15 mins.

With 2mins to go confusion in front of goal from the Academy's defence and Keeper Pichon, saw the young keeper have to scramble to stop the ball from tucking in for a certain Marconi goal. A last ditch effort from Marconi's Wendy Graham saw tried legs unable to take advantage of the space found at

Emma Hunter bravely came out fast and solid to block the shot. Both teams were now running desperately at goal but the first 15 minutes of extra time saw no winner.

With 20 seconds gone after the turnaround, the Academy were given a free kick after Marconi's Lisa Collins was Yellow Carded for a clumsy tackle just outside the 18 yard box. The free kick was sent high and just left of the Marconi goal. The play was now switching and gathering pace with both teams being put under pressure.

It was the 7th min with a lull in play, that Marconi took a quick throw in just metres from the corner post. The ball was played to Jodie Bann who controlled it at her feet, looked up for options and saw that Julia Bazi was making a run from the left side of the field into the goal area.

Bann then played a beautifully struck cross that found Bazi making a time run. Bazi was then able to beat two academy defender and keeper the bag the golden goal.

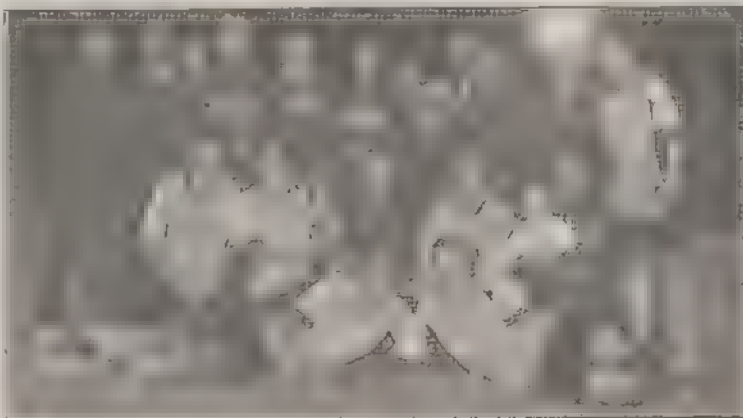
With jubilation the Marconi players ran from all directions, including the bench to embraced both Bann and Bazi, in celebration of the win.

After the game Marconi's Captain Lisa Collins said "Great game, it was so tough out there. They made us (the Academy) work for this, but we fought hard. I'm so happy and to win it in free play just makes it even better, nobody wants to win it with a Penalty Shoot-out. I'm so proud of my girls it was a total team effort on the park and a club effort off to get us here. Leigh (Wardell) has brought the best out of us, but we had to do it for ourselves on the park. It just feels so great."

Upon comment, Marconi's Coach Leigh Wardell said, "Great Game, Great Result!"

And for the Academy's Coach Alan Stajic commented that although disappointed in the end result that "both teams played hard and the best team won on the day. But I am so proud of the girls, and they can be proud of what they achieved this year."

Marconi were crowned Women's Super League Champions 2002, being presented with the prestigious Charles Valentine Cup from Jodie Camden, Director NSW Soccer Federation & Chairperson Women's Soccer Council.



The victorious Marconi team.

dangerous tackle.

This saw the Academy come back at Marconi with the free kick being blocked, but popping out nicely for the Academy just outside and in front of goal. Desperation from Marconi saw a free kick given to the Academy after a nasty tackle. The switched on Academy team quickly placed the ball hoping to take the advantage of the quick free kick right in front of goal. But was foiled when the Marconi defence kicked the ball away to delay the restart.

This gave the defence time to set. The free kick was taken and sailed over the Marconi wall. It was heading for the top left corner of goal when the curve of the ball saw it go out for a goal kick.

Marconi then turned the defence into attack when Jodie Bann made a 30m run down the

the 45th min.

With 4 minutes of added time, both teams fought strongly for the winning goal but with no real advantage gain until the 49th min when Marconi's Celeste Fihlebon was brought down just outside the 18yd box. But Marconi was unable to take advantage and the game was sent into Extra Time.

As expected Extra time saw both teams going all out for the Golden Goal that would see them take the WSL Champions Title for 2002, and in a hectic fast paced 1st 15mins of extra time the vocal crowd was treated to class soccer from both teams.

With both teams now attacking Keepers Pichon and Hunter were kept busy saving shots. The Academy had the best chance to seal the game when Emma Howes broke free in front of goal, only to have Marconi's Keeper



Marconi Captain - Lisa Collins

NSW Super League

GRAND FINAL PREVIEW



Rockdale City Suns v Hajduk Wanderers



What a Grand-Final it promises to be! The high flying Rockdale City Suns against the hard-working Hajduk Wanderers at Melita Stadium in a winner take all contest.

While Hajduk were doing battle with Fraser Park in the Preliminary Final last Sunday, the Suns players were taking a well earned break after their hitout against NSL side Marconi on Friday night. While the result didn't favour the Suns, Technical Director of Coaching Bill Pilovski felt the match was a good hitout for his side who have played just the one game in the past four weeks.

"From a playing perspective it was an excellent run for the boys" said Pilovski. "While we went down 4-1, we did rest a number of key players and give our fringe players some much needed match time."

Peter Trajceviski, Peter Apoleviski and Nick Bosevski were all rested in the lead-up to next weekends Grand Final with Pilovski confident they will all be one hundred percent by kick-off. "The boys are all fit and well and we shouldn't have any excuses for ourselves this week" said Pilovski. "Hajduk won't be easy, and while we have beaten them three times this year, they have nothing to lose and can play the game accordingly."

That 'underdog' tag is exactly the one that Hajduk coach Tom McCulloch is expected to play in the season decider, in a bid to pump his side up. "We are definitely the underdogs" said McCulloch, "and we have nothing to lose, so we will go out and give it absolutely everything. Rockdale are the best side in the league and while they have knocked us over a few times, the boys are still seething over the last loss. We know we can play a lot better than we did two weeks ago and that should be motivation enough for us to be at our best this week."

The only player causing McCulloch any problems on the injury front is JJ Ellul. Ellul was replaced after just half an hour of work against Fraser Park, with a lower back problem but he is expected to have the Tuesday session off before resuming on Thursday before the game. Mauro Van Cuylenburg who has been missing in recent weeks with a hand injury will be given until the last moment to prove his fitness, though his contribution to the game is expected to be off the bench.

Both Rockdale and Hajduk will train Tuesday and Thursday night, with Hajduk scheduling an extra session for Saturday morning to work on some set pieces and corners.

ROCKDALE CITY SUNS

PETER TRAJCEVISKI (Goalkeeper) – Rockdales ever present goalkeeper, who looks destined for higher honours. Has conceded the least number of goals of any goalkeeper this season and is again expect-

ed to play an important part in keeping the Suns a clean sheet.

IVAN NECEVSKI (Goalkeeper) – Despite wearing the number one shirt for Bonnyrigg for the majority of the Premier League season, he still can't displace the talented Peter Trajceviski, and will act as the second choice.

RICHARD PLESA (Sweeper) – Any National League clubs looking for a quality defender, should go no further than this guy. A short priced favourite for the Super League player of the year to be announced at seasons end, he marshalls the defence with composure and confidence.

ALEX KOTEVICH (Defender) – A tall and rugged defender, much in the Alex Tobin mould, he will get the job of marking the enigmatic Tim Gledhill. Strong in the air he is a very solid footballer, despite his size.

MALCOLM BIDEAU (Defender) – The former Sutherland and Leichhardt Tigers hardman, is likely to get the job on the lively Peter Farac. One to watch when he pushes forward to support his side at corners and set pieces where he can use his aerial strength to great advantage.

GHENADIE COSTIUC (Defender) – Has been making most of his contributions from the bench this year, with the abundance of talent in the Suns back four. A former Russian youth international, he fits in nicely at stopper where he is more than capable of blanketing an opponent.

LEO CARLE (Midfielder) – Capable of winning the match off his own boot, his exquisite ball skills are a delight to watch. Very dangerous from set pieces in and around the penalty box, his combination with the enigmatic Denis Alilovic is likely to decide the outcome of the ballgame, such is his influence over the Suns attack.

PETER APOLEVSKI (Midfielder) – Will patrol the right hand side of the park with his customary speed and dash. Provides his side with a lot of go forward where he uses his pace to get behind opposing defences to whip in crosses for the likes of Najdoski and Bosevski to run onto.

JOSE MENDES (Midfielder) – Former Sydney Olympic midfielder more noted for his defensive abilities than his attacking prowess. Can also play wide on the right where he has deputised for the injured Peter Apoleviski in recent weeks.

TONY JU (Midfielder) – Will get the job on the left hand side of the midfield where he will also try to use his deft footwork to infiltrate the Wanderers back four. His forte are the inch perfect left foot crosses, from which so many of the Suns goals have been scored this season.

BEN DEIGHAN (Midfielder) – A nonsense, no frills type player who will plug the defensive hole in the midfield. A former ACT Player of the Year, Deighan is also known to get forward when the occasion demands, having put away five goals this season.

DENIS ALILOVIC (Midfielder) – Two seasons ago, he was playing Second

Division football with Hurstville Zagreb. On Sunday he will cap a meteoric rise that has seen him capture the attention of National league clubs with his skill and vision in the midfield. Hajduk will need to watch his movements very closely as he comes forward to support his two strikers.

NICK BOSEVSKI (Striker) – One half of the Suns forward line, he likes nothing better than to run at players from deep. His 11 goals this season are no fluke as his main danger lies off his lethal right foot.

SPASE NAJDOSKI (Striker) – He might be in the twilight of his career, but there is no better finisher in the league than he. A former first division player in Macedonia, he will run out the first 60 or so minutes before he hands over to some fresh legs off the bench.

GOCE TRPOSKI (Striker) – A real crowd favourite for the Suns fans, he will be expected to start off the bench and come into the match to replace Najdoski at some stage in the second half. Likes nothing better than to run at players with his pace, he could well make a telling contribution in the later stages.

ANTHONY ADAMO (Striker) – Has been lively for Rockdale in his few starts from the bench this year. Might be thrown into the game if it gets tight where he can slot into the midfield or in the strikers role.

HAJDUK WANDERERS

DANIEL SCHWARZER (Goalkeeper) – Younger brother of Soccerroo Mark, he looks a lot like his older brother in the way he attacks the ball. A product of the Marconi youth system, his acrobatics and reflexes have made a telling contribution to Hajduks rise to the Grand-Final.

DARREN CROSS (Goalkeeper) – Will start as the second choice goalkeeper off the bench. A couple of average games when deputising for Schwarzer have cost him the number one shirt, but on his day a very capable keeper.

SCOTT BAILEY (Defender) – The Mr Reliable of the Wanderers defence. If you don't notice him, chances are he has had a good game blotting an opposition striker off the park. Likely to get the nippy Nick Bosevski as his opponent this week.

ROBERT KUMAN (Defender) – Plucked from the lower grades by coach Tom McCulloch earlier this year, Kuman has shown the composure of a player ten years his senior and has really bolstered the Hajduk back four.

MARK ABI-ARRAGE (Defender) – Scored two goals last week to take his side to the Grand Final, but it's at the other end of the park, where his services are much better utilised. Will get the job on fellow veteran Spase Najdoski in a match up which will go a long way to deciding the outcome of the match.

STEPHEN SCOTTI (Defender) – Rugged, dour, no-nonsense defender, who

slots in very well in Hajduks tight back four.

JJ ELLUL (Midfielder) – He may have shaved his long flowing locks this season, but he hasn't lost any of his strong work ethic that is very much the heart and soul of the Hajduk engine room. Likes the wide open spaces and if the Suns are sloppy with their marking he is more than capable of knocking some quality balls around for his strikers to run onto.

GABRIEL GONZALEZ (Midfielder) – The former Canberra Cosmos midfielder is the 'go-to man' as far as the Wanderers are concerned. Brilliant on either foot he will need to be closely marked for the Suns to have any show in this game.

BRENDAN SALAMEH (Midfielder) – A product of the Blacktown City club, Salameh made the transition to Hajduk last season and hasn't looked back. Troubled by injury in recent weeks, his partnership with Ellul and Gonzalez is the key to his sides hopes for a win this week.

TRENT WOKRALL (Midfielder) – Eight goals this year show he is a very capable midfielder who can push forward to support his strikers. Likes the counter attack where he can run at players with the ball at his feet and set up his forwards.

SIMON ZAHRA (Midfielder) – Another youngster nurtured along by McCulloch, he faces the ultimate test this week in the face of a dynamic Suns midfield. Likely to start off the bench and be introduced in the second half where his fresh legs can be put to good use.

MAURO VAN CUYLENBURG (Midfielder) – A former Marconi National league player who is battling a hand injury in a bid to make the Wanderers squad for the Grand-Final. Will be given until the very last moment to prove his fitness.

ROBERT MANENTE (Utility) – Another of Tommy McCulloch's youngsters, he can play in defence or in the midfield and likely to start off the bench, where his fresh legs will come into play in the second half of the match.

PETER FARAC (Striker) – Plucked from the second grade side by McCulloch, Farac has been a revelation on the forward line where his speed has been used to good effect. Whilst he has only scored three goals himself this year, it's the balls he lays off for the likes of Worrall and Gledhill that tell the real story of this outstanding youngster.

TIM GLEDHILL (Striker) – Former Ryde City striker, he has been the target of transfer speculation in recent weeks about a step up to the Premier League. Possesses tremendous speed for a player in excess of 6 feet tall, he can really throw himself around in the penalty box and score goals – 13 of them this year to be exact.

STEVE JORDAN (Striker) – Will get some game time this week off the bench where he can deputise for either Farac or Gledhill.

EXPERT TIPS

John Sentas (Fraser Park coach) – "HAJDUK WANDRERS are a big chance, providing they can lift themselves again next week."

Rockdale aren't unbeatable but it will take a very disciplined effort from Hajduk to keep them in check and score the two goals you need to win a Grand Final."

Glenn Sprod (Fraser Park midfielder) – "ROCKDALE by 3 goals"

Stewart Porter (Sydney University coach) – "ROCKDALE look to be too big and too strong"

Tony Dunn (Ryde City coach) – "ROCKDALE, though it will be closer than a lot of people think. Hajduk will be better prepared this time around, but it's very hard to go past the Suns after their performances this season."

Paul Carter (Former Soccerroo) – "ROCKDALE have been the best side all year and will be very hard to beat. Hajduk are capable of springing an upset, but they'll need to have everything go their way and not make any mistakes to get close."

John Calleja (Parramatta Eagles coach) – "ROCKDALE without question."

Hajduk just lack that touch of class that Rockdale possess and in big occasion games like this, it will mean a lot."

Ross Anton (Stanmore Hawks coach) – "ROCKDALE, though I am predicting a very close game."

Matches like these are not black and white but Hajduk will need to really pressure Rockdale in the midfield if they are to get the points. I also expect Leo Carle to be the difference between the sides.

That boy can win the game off his own foot and for that reason I have to go with the Suns."

NSW Super League

Final Series Scoreboard

First Grade

PRELIMINARY FINAL

HAJDUK WANDERERS .2 FRASER PARK1
(M Abi-Arrage 50/73m) (A Farria 16m)

UNDER 21

PRELIMINARY FINAL

RYDE CITY2 AC UNITED1
EXTRA TIME (1-1 FULL TIME)

UNDER 19

PRELIMINARY FINAL

ROCKDALE CITY SUNS ...3 RYDE CITY1

FIRST GRADE

Grand Final Sunday 8/9/02

Rockdale City Suns



V

Hajduk Wanderers

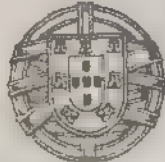


Melita Stadium
3.00pm

UNDER 21

Grand Final Sunday 8/9/02

Fraser Park



V

Ryde City



Melita Stadium
12.15pm

UNDER 19

Grand Final Sunday 8/9/02

Dulwich Hill



V

Rockdale City Suns



Melita Stadium
10.15am

J-P's Coaching Tips

Hi everyone,

On behalf of the New South Wales Soccer Federation, I would like to wish all the players and staff of the female Under 14 and Under 17 state teams the very best of luck for the upcoming National Junior Titles to be held at Coffs Harbour from the 8th of September.

But back to matters in Sydney now. Once again the Valentine Sports Park will be full of activity this coming weekend.

Coerver Coaching will be holding trials for their Elite Squads, the Premier and Super Youth League semi-finals will be played throughout, as

well as the Under 15 and Under 16 NSW State teams will be preparing for the upcoming National Titles.

On Saturday the 7th September from 6:30pm-8:30pm, we will also be conducting the Elite Soccer Program (ESP) update which I am really looking forward to, as I always enjoy communicating with other coaches and exchanging ideas.

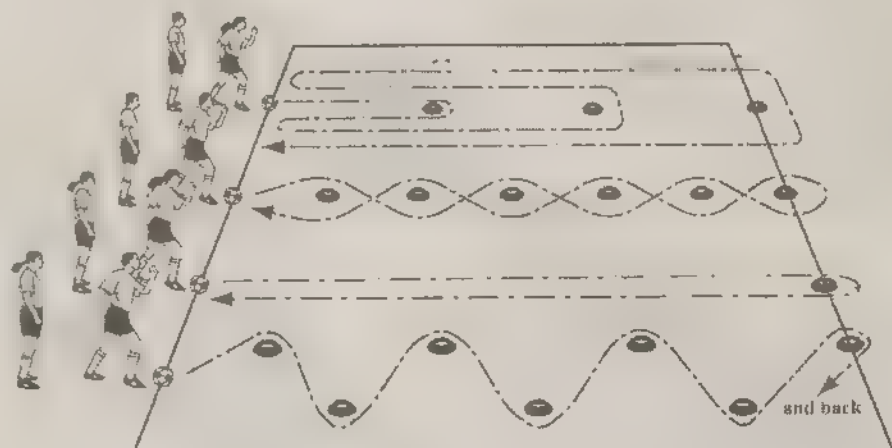
We will be practicing a variety of drills as well as discussing the ESP games for this December and the calendar of events for 2003.

Now onto the tips. This week, we are concentrating on two dribbling drills, both may be done with partners or more players.

Dribbling Drill



Dribbling Ideas



- Quite simply, players take turns dribbling to the line and back.

- This may be done in pairs or with a group of players in each line.

- You can provide variety by adding markers between the lines for players to dribble around.

Players with good dribbling technique can be a huge asset to a team. Dribbling past an opponent can create different opportunities for a team.

For example, if an attacker dribbles past a full-back or wing back, it creates a crossing opportunity.

An attacker dribbling past a central defender can create a shooting opportunity, and if a midfielder dribbles past their opposite midfielder, you may have a 2 v 1 situation against the opponents defence.

*That's All For This Week -
Until Next Time
Happy Coaching*

Jean-Paul de Marigny
Coaching and Development Manager
New South Wales Soccer Federation

NSW Divisions 1 & 2

DIVISION ONE FINALS

By Stuart Veitch

Western Rage0
Mt Pritchard1
(Screpis 94' in extra time)

A lacklustre preliminary final between Mt Pritchard and Western Rage saw the Mounties win their way into the Grand Final with a golden goal from substitute Fab Screpis, after neither side had scored during regulation time.

Backing up after a hammering from minor premiers Wanderers Cedars in last week's major semi-final, the Rage began the match positively and looked clearly the better side over the first half hour. One of the more intriguing battles of the afternoon was in the middle of the park where the Mounties' Joe Moric faced the evergreen Ossie El Ali.

Ably assisted by the industrious Christian Luma, El Ali began in fine form, holding the ball and distributing it to his strikers with impeccable timing and precision. Fellow veteran Bruno Beddoni was often the grateful recipient, and might have created the first goal early in the game when a perfectly weighted El Ali pass put him through Mt Pritchard defence.

With a rapidly increasing angle on goal, Beddoni put a devilish cross just out of reach of Mounties keeper Michael Hartas. After a moment's chaos, the ball was scrambled away to safety.

While there were few good chances, it was the Rage who looked more likely to open the scoring, as the Mounties struggled to play with any fluency or rhythm.

Beddoni's strike partner, Clint Green, was hungry for the ball, and worried opposition defenders with his aggressive approach, but

on occasion ran with the ball, when a quick pass was the better option. Still, he did well to latch onto a wonderfully controlled header from Beddoni, but Hartas stretched high to hold the looping volley.

Just as it seemed to be all the Rage, the momentum began to turn in Mounties' favour. Luke Flynn began to hit his straps for Mt Pritchard, who continually exposed the Western Rage's defensive frailties down the right channel.

First John Cosentino scootered away down the right to play in a dangerous cross, then it was Flynn who found his way through and still had sufficient time to smash a long range piledriver into onto the crossbar.

On the stroke of half time, Michael Severino created a golden opportunity after a quick lay off by Flynn. Severino's wicked curling strike with the right instep was sent spinning towards the bottom corner of the goal, but its progress was spectacularly impeded by the outstretched hand of Rage keeper Barry Smith.

By the break, the Mounties had played themselves back into the game in what turned out to be an even first half.

Good chances on goal were few and far between during an uninspiring second half, with the game's momentum was interrupted by a long wait for an ambulance to attend to the injured

Mounties substitute Luke McGregor.

Having taken the field barely two minutes earlier, a clash while contesting a high ball left McGregor unconscious and in desperate need of medical attention. McGregor's misfortune made for the introduction of ultimate matchwinner Fab Screpis, but not before two attempts by El Ali to win the game for his team. The first, just before time was an opportunistic attempt from a distance that almost sneaked past keeper Michael Hartas, while the second, just into extra time, was a screamer.

Taking advantage of the tiring (if younger) legs of his opposing midfielders, El Ali set off on a fifty metre run into space down the right. Holding off and then passing Glenn Lowe, El Ali belted a high shot from the edge of the area that wobbled agonisingly wide of the top corner.

Just moments later, Mount Pritchard's Fab Screpis was the unlikely hero, tapping in after some fine work from Severino and Luke Tomich. Severino's visionary cross was controlled in a touch by Tomich at the far post, and played across for Screpsi to finish the move, and book a Grand Final place for the Mounties.

Mt Pritchard will meet minor premiers Wanderers Cedars in the Division One Final at 2.30pm next Sunday at Hadyuk Stadium, St Johns Park.

WESTERN RAGE: Smith, King, C Noble, R Noble, Berbis, Zullo, El Ali, Lovrencic (Budini 57'), Luma, Beddoni (Borg 67'), Green
MT PRITCHARD: Hartas, Vrlc, Morton, Tomich, Healey (McGregor 82' Screpis 83'), Cosentino, Flynn, Moric, Lowe, White, Severino.

YELLOW CARDS: Berbis 10', Beddoni 30' (Western Rage), Lowe 60' (Mt Pritchard).

RED CARD: Vrlc 80' (Mt Pritchard).

REFEREE: Simon Pizydacz.

DIVISION TWO GRAND FINAL

Nepean Association . . .3
(Paul Richardson 15, Marc Hoenselaars, 87, 91)
Liverpool Bossy0

Nepean Association wrapped up their first Division Two Championship with a solid 3-0 victory over season-long rivals Liverpool Bossy in the Division Two Grand Final at Nineveh Field on Sunday.

Going into the Grand Final Nepean could take comfort in two comprehensive victories over Bossy in just the last six weeks. It would seem that they continued that dominance in the season finale, however it was a match that hung in the balance until the final minutes when a brace of goals in quick succession to Marc Hoenselaars blew out the score line.

Bossy started in a somewhat lethargic fashion and they could have gone behind on ten minutes when Paul Richardson's free kick from the edge of the penalty area clipped the roof of the net.

It was no surprise when five minutes later Nepean opened the scoring though the goal did contain an element of luck.

Richardson's free kick from close to the sideline of the compact Nineveh Field, floated narrowly over the heads of onrushing attackers and defenders alike, before nestling just inside the far post of goalkeeper Anel Kurtovic who had been anticipating a header on goal.

Bossy slowly started to force their way back into the contest and show the kind of fire and determination that would be needed to overcome their combative opponents.

Referee Terry Goodhew forced to work overtime to keep things in control when a yellow card for a

foul on Mladen Damjanovic resulted in a pushing match involving the best part of all 22 players as Grand Final tensions began to boil over.

It would have been hard to see Bossy comeback from a two-goal deficit and their large band of supporters no doubt breathed a sigh of relief when Ercan Topal's volley hit the frame of the goal after the diminutive midfielder latched onto a cross from the right.

Bossy had perhaps their best chance to score in a disappointing first half when Damjanovic played a superb cross-field pass, however Michael Abas was unable to fully control the ball under pressure from the advancing Nepean goalkeeper Daniel Stevenson.

The second half saw Bossy looking much more lively and soon after the break they appeared to have evened the ledger. However Fikret Bilajac, who had only been on the field for a few minutes, saw his goal disallowed for offside. A matter of moments later Sead Kacanovic very nearly scored directly from a corner as the high ball deceived Stevenson in the blustery conditions. Despite being under pressure, Nepean with defenders Chris Meek and Glenn McPherson leading the way were resolute in defence.

Nepean weren't without their chances however and Marc Hoenselaars, Paul Richardson and Matthew Borg could have all but

finished the game off on a couple of occasions.

Fifteen minutes from time, Bossy defender Emir Efendic was centimetres away from earning his side a penalty when he was brought down by Con Dellas, however referee Goodhew correctly ruled that the offence occurred outside the penalty area.

Finally, and with just three minutes of regulation time left on the clock, Nepean got the goal that ensured they would claim victory when Marc Hoenselaars picked up a free kick driven into the area before stepping past his marker to score with style.

As Bossy pushed up looking for a consolation, Hoenselaars broke up-field and put the issue beyond any doubt when he scored with a classic strikers finish, hitting his shot low and hard past Kurtovic and off the inside of the far post.

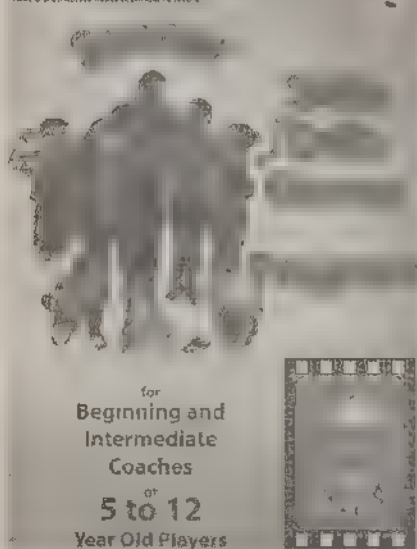
The match ended in unfortunate circumstances when, in what proved to be the last play of the game, Kurtovic appeared to suffer a nasty injury as he came under heavy challenge when jumping for a high ball.

Perhaps it was fitting that the two best teams in the competition not only met in the Grand Final but that the silverware for 2002 was equally shared. Nepean Association Division Two Champions, Liverpool Bossy Division Two Premiers.

NEPEAN ASSOCIATION: Stevenson, Meek, Topal (Dellas 55, Buckpitt 81), Pressello, Ali, Valsamis, Richardson, Marc Hoenselaars, Borg, Michael Hoenselaars (Vanega 91), McPherson.
Cautions: Ali, McPherson, Borg, Richardson

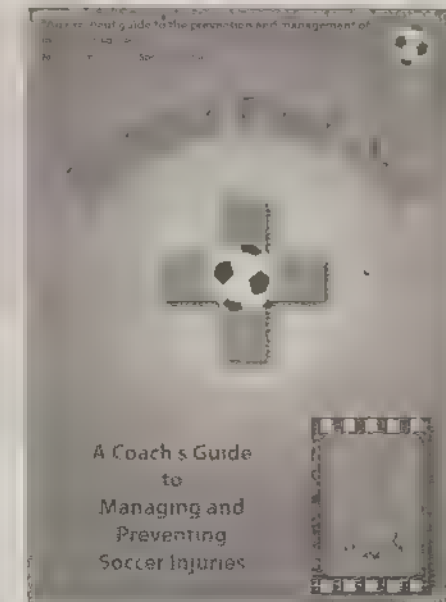
LIVERPOOL BOSSY: Kurtovic, Misina, Efendic, Gurbuz, Ozdemir, Krpo, Fejzovic (Bilajac H/T), Abas, Kacanovic, Damjanovic, Halilovic.
Cautions: Krpo, Kacanovic.
Referee: Terry Goodhew

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Alla Luma (Mounties Premier Coach and NSW Teacher)



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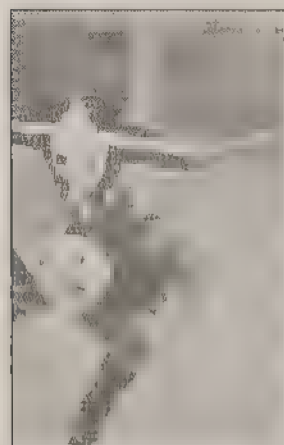
NSW Youth & Cadet Leagues

YOUTH LEAGUE REPORTS

Well, we all know where we ended up on the competition table this season and now it is down to the business of the finals series. Last weekend we said goodbye to some teams while others will have a "second bite at the cherry" over the next two weeks. We have already seen some fabulous football from the past weekend and that augers well for those games to come in the coming weeks.

It is a funny thing about this time of year that normally calm and resolute people develop the shakes, find themselves unable to express themselves in a coherent form and find their minds wandering. And that is the parents and supporters! On the other hand, the players seem to either grow another leg to perform well above their previously displayed form or they appear to have locked their previous good play in a cupboard somewhere and they are unable to find the key. All the coaches and managers have a definite edge to their voices and there is a steely resolve in their eyes.

Win or lose, we know that these teams are the best in their age group and division and that they will be giving everything they have to every moment of play. We know that the coaches and managers will be concentrating on finding ways for their young charges to win the match and the spectators will be cheering their hearts out to encourage their teams. All the referees and their assistants will be doing their best to ensure the rules are applied fairly and evenly throughout every match.



PREMIER YOUTH LEAGUE

The Elimination semi final in the 13s was decided by the dreaded penalty shoot-out after Olympic Sharks and Northern Spirit were locked together at one-all at the end of the normal match time and at the completion of extra time. Fifth-placed Spirit won out on the day by four penalties to two. The Preliminary semi final also went to a shoot-out when neither Blacktown City nor Marconi Stallions could find the back of the net. The Stallions prevailed on this occasion six to five and they will meet Parramatta Eagles next weekend while the Demons will face up to Spirit.

In the 14s the result was clearer in both matches with the fourth-placed Demons eliminating Leichhardt Tigers by a two goal margin in normal time and the Stallions overcoming Spirit by the only goal of the game in the other match. As a result, Marconi will now meet Olympic Sharks while Spirit will face Blacktown City.

Olympic Sharks' 15s needed a golden goal to beat third-placed Parramatta Eagles by the odd goal in three in their Preliminary semi final match up and it took another golden strike in the other match for fifth-placed Blacktown City to eliminate Ian Rudgeley's Sydney United side who have been the only team to knock off Minor Premiers Marconi this season. Olympic will now meet Marconi and Parramatta will play Blacktown.

The 17s Elimination match was decided in normal time with fifth-placed

Leichhardt Tigers proving too hot for Northern Spirit on the day, scoring two goals without reply. The Preliminary semi final was a different story though as Wollongong Wolves and Olympic Sharks could only manage one goal apiece during normal time and neither was able to find the back of the net in extra-time so once again it was up to the coolest heads during the series of spot kicks. In this area the Wolves were superior and won 5-3. They will meet Blacktown City this weekend and Leichhardt will play Olympic.

SUPER YOUTH LEAGUE

The electric atmosphere continued on Sunday at Valentine Sports Park where the drama was no less intense than it had been on Saturday.

The 13s Elimination game between Eastern Suburbs and Bonnyrigg White Eagles was decided by an early goal from Bonnyrigg in a fairly tight match. It was a very similar story on the other ground where Newcastle United found the back of the net in the early stages of the match against Macarthur Rams and that proved to be decisive. The Rams will play Bonnyrigg and Newcastle will be up against minor premiers Nepean.

Both 14s matches were decided by the odd goal in three. Fifth-placed Nepean had the edge on Newcastle in the Elimination match. In the Preliminary semi final between Blacktown Association and AC United appeared certain to be going to extra-time after Clayton Dodd found an equaliser for Blacktown but with mere seconds left on the clock Reece Iredale got his head to a corner kick and settled the issue. Ben de Haan's Blacktown must now play Bill Gamock's Macarthur Rams while AC United will face up to Nepean.



In the 15s Fairfield Bulls were too good for Ku-ring-Gai Association, winning 2-0 in the elimination game. The other match was a reasonably high scoring affair in which second-placed Newcastle United overcame a spirited Hills United side by the odd goal in five. Fairfield will now play Hills and Newcastle will be matched against Bankstown City Cubs.

Bankstown City have kept their hopes alive in the 17s after beating fifth-placed Hajduk by a two goal margin in the Elimination game. Third-placed AC United scored the only goal of their game against Hills United to settle the issue in the Preliminary semi final. Bankstown now have a difficult assignment against Hills while AC United will play against Newcastle United.

DIVISION ONE YOUTH LEAGUE

Christie Park was the venue for the semi finals for this division and there was certainly no lack of atmosphere or tension.

Alex Prophet's Camden Tigers side were placed fifth in the 13s but they proved to be too good on the day for Illawarra Lions, winning by a two goal margin in the Elimination game. Third-placed Parramatta City found the net three times in the Preliminary semi final while opponents Ryde could only reply twice. Parramatta will play Schofields Scorpions this week and Camden will be up

against Ryde.

Goals were the order of the day in the 14s with a total of eleven being scored in the two matches. The Elimination semi final produced six goals with Camden finding the net four times to overcome fifth-placed Schofields Scorpions. In the other game, third-placed Ryde City edged out Mt Pritchard by the odd goal in five. The Mounties will play Camden and Ryde will meet Mt Druitt.

Lots more goals came from the 15s matches although the results were clear cut in both of them. Fifth-placed Mt Druitt were in hot form as they knocked off Rockdale City by four goals. Second-placed Schofields Scorpions were in irresistible form as they too found the net four times without a reply from Camden Tigers. Mt Druitt will play Camden this week while Schofields will meet Illawarra Lions.

Schofields Scorpions finished in fifth spot on the 17s table but they were just a bit too good for Mt Pritchard in the Elimination semi final as they won by three goals to one. In the Preliminary semi final Vince Pesa's Camden Tigers were in sparkling form as they rolled third-placed Ryde City by three goals. Camden will meet Dulwich Hill this weekend and Ryde will play Schofields.

PREMIER CADET LEAGUE

The Premier Cadet League also commenced their finals series on the weekend and like their Youth League counterparts, the venue was the headquarters for soccer in NSW, Valentine Sports Park.

The 11s Elimination semi final saw a clash between fourth-placed Manly Warringah Dolphins and Penrith Panthers. With the teams scoring a goal apiece in normal time and unable to settle the issue in extra-time, a penalty shoot-out was needed. Manly survived on this occasion by five goals to four. Penalties were also needed to decide the Preliminary semi final between second-placed Olympic Sharks and Blacktown City. The teams had both found the net once during the normal match and they battled through extra-time without further troubling the scorers. The Sharks had the cooler heads from the spot kicks and won by four goals to two. Manly will meet Blacktown this weekend while Olympic will play Marconi Stallions.

There was no need for penalties in the 12s though as the results were known at the conclusion of each match. Fifth-placed Parramatta Eagles eliminated Wollongong Wolves by three goals to one and in the Preliminary semi final second-placed Northern Spirit were two goals too good for Olympic Sharks. Parramatta will play Olympic while Spirit will meet minor premiers Blacktown City in a match expected to be of the highest quality.

SUPER CADET LEAGUE

The Grand Finals for this division were played two weeks ago at Nineveh Field with Eastern Suburbs claiming the 11s match with a single goal victory over AC United. Easts were not so fortunate in the 12s however as Hills United ran out 3-0 winners.

Action from Premier Youth League Semi-Finals at Valentine Sports Park

THIS WEEK'S FIXTURES

PREMIER YOUTH LEAGUE

Saturday 7th September, 2002

Valentine Sports Park No.1 and No.2

Major Semi Final

U13	11:30am	Parramatta Eagles	v	Marconi Stallions
U14	1:00pm	Olympic Sharks	v	Marconi Stallions
U15	2:30pm	Marconi Stallions	v	Olympic Sharks
U17	4:00pm	Blacktown City	v	Wollongong Wolves

Minor Semi Final

U13	11:30am	Blacktown City	v	Northern Spirit
U14	1:00pm	Northern Spirit	v	Blacktown City
U15	2:30pm	Parramatta Eagles	v	Blacktown City
U17	4:00pm	Olympic Sharks	v	Leichhardt Tigers

SUPER YOUTH LEAGUE

Sunday 8th September, 2002

Valentine Sports Park No.1 and No.2

Major Semi Final

U13	11:30am	Nepean Association	v	Newcastle United
U14	1:00pm	Macarthur Rams	v	Blacktown Association
U15	2:30pm	Bankstown City Cubs	v	Newcastle United
U17	4:00pm	Newcastle United	v	AC United

Minor Semi Final

U13	11:30am	Macarthur Rams	v	Bonnyrigg White Eagles
U14	1:00pm	AC United	v	Nepean Association
U15	2:30pm	Hills United	v	Fairfield Bulls
U17	4:00pm	Hills United	v	Bankstown City Cubs

DIVISION 1 YOUTH LEAGUE

Saturday 7th September, 2002

Cromer Park

Major Semi Final

U13	10:00am	Schofields Scorpions	v	Ryde City
U14	1:30pm	Mt Druitt Town	v	Ryde City
U15	1:00pm	Illawarra Lions	v	Schofield Scorpions
U17	2:30pm	Dulwich Hill	v	Camden Tigers

Minor Semi Final

U13	10:00am	Parramatta City	v	Camden Tigers
U14	1:30pm	Mt Pritchard	v	Camden Tigers
U15	1:00pm	Camden Tigers	v	Mt Druitt
U17	2:30pm	Ryde City	v	Schofield Scorpions

PREMIER CADET LEAGUE

Saturday 7th September, 2002

Valentine Sports Park No.1 and No.2

Major Semi Final

U11	8:45am	Marconi Stallions	v	Olympic Sharks
U12	10:00am	Blacktown City	v	Northern Spirit

Minor Semi Final

U11	8:45am	Blacktown City	v	Manly Warringah
U12	10:00am	Olympic Sharks	v	Parramatta Eagles

DIVISION 1 CADET LEAGUE

Sunday 8th September, 2002

Valentine Sports Park No.1 and No.2

Elimination Semi Final

U11	8:45am	Schofields Scorpions	v	Parramatta City
U12	10:00am	MSC Liverpool	v	Mt Druitt

Preliminary Semi Final

U11	8:45am	Ryde City	v	Illawarra
U12	10:00am	Camden Tigers	v	Ryde City

NSW Youth & Cadet Leagues

RESULTS AND TABLES

PREMIER YOUTH LEAGUE

PRELIMINARY SEMI FINAL

GRADE 13:	Blacktown City	5	Marconi	6	Penalties (0-0 Full Time, 0-0 Extra Time).
GRADE 14:	Northern Spirit	0	Marconi	1	
GRADE 15:	Olympic Sharks	2	Parramatta Eagles	1	Extra Time (1-1 Full Time).
GRADE 17:	Wollongong Wolves	5	Olympic Sharks	3	Penalties (1-1 Full Time, 1-1 Extra Time)

ELIMINATION FINAL

GRADE 13:	Olympic Sharks	2	Northern Spirit	4	Penalties (1-1 Full Time, 1-1 Extra Time).
GRADE 14:	Blacktown City	2	Leichhardt Tigers	0.	
GRADE 15:	Sydney United	2	Blacktown City	3	Extra Time (2-2 Full Time)
GRADE 17:	Northern Spirit	0	Leichhardt Tigers	2.	

PREMIER CADET LEAGUE

PRELIMINARY FINAL

GRADE 11:	Olympic Sharks	4	Blacktown City	2	Penalties (1-1 Full Time, 1-1 Extra Time).
GRADE 12:	Northern Spirit	2	Olympic Sharks	0.	

ELIMINATION FINAL

GRADE 11:	Manly Warringah	5	Pennith Panthers	4	Penalties (1-1 Full Time, 1-1 Extra Time).
GRADE 12:	Wollongong Wolves	1	Parramatta Eagles	3	

SUPER YOUTH LEAGUE

PRELIMINARY FINAL

GRADE 13:	Newcastle United	1	Macarthur Rams	0	
GRADE 14:	Blacktown Assoc	2	AC United	1	Extra Time (1-1 Full Time)
GRADE 15:	Newcastle United	3	Hills United	2	Extra Time (2-2 Full Time)
GRADE 17:	Hills United	0	AC United	1	

ELIMINATION FINAL

GRADE 13:	Eastern Suburbs SFA	0	Bonnyrigg White Eagles	1
GRADE 14:	Newcastle United	1	Nepean Association	2
GRADE 15:	Fairfield Bulls	2	Ku-Ring-Gai Association	0
GRADE 17:	Bankstown City Cubs	2	Hajduk Wanderers	0

DIVISION ONE YOUTH LEAGUE

PRELIMINARY FINAL

GRADE 13:	Ryde City	4	Parramatta City	3	Penalties (1-1 Full Time, 1-1 Extra Time).
GRADE 14:	Mt Pritchard	2	Ryde City	3	Penalties (2-2 Full Time, 2-2 Extra Time).
GRADE 15:	Schofield Scorpions	4	Camden Tigers	0	
GRADE 17:	Camden Tigers	3	Ryde City	0	

ELIMINATION FINAL

GRADE 13:	Illawarra Lions	0	Camden Tigers	2
GRADE 14:	Camden Tigers	4	Schofield Scorpions	2
GRADE 15:	Rockdale City Suns	0	Mt Druitt Town	4
GRADE 17:	Mt Pritchard	1	Schofield Scorpions	3

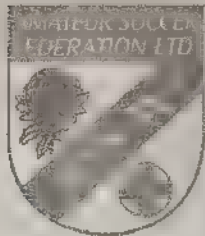
DIVISION ONE CADET LEAGUE: ROUND 22:
 GRADE 11: Camden Tigers 3 Mt Druitt Town 0, Hawkesbury City 0 Ryde City 1, Stanmore Hawks 1 Illawarra Lions 2, MSC Liverpool 2 Hurstville City Crescent Star 1, Parramatta City 4 Mt Pritchard 0, Schofield Scorpions 3 Rockdale City Suns 0. GRADE 12: Camden Tigers 0 Mt Druitt Town 0, Hawkesbury City 0 Ryde City 1, Stanmore Hawks 2 Illawarra Lions 3, MSC Liverpool 6 Hurstville City Crescent Star 0, Parramatta City 2 Mt Pritchard 0, Schofield Scorpions 1 Rockdale City Suns 1.

DIVISION ONE CADET LEAGUE GRADE 11

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Camden Tigers	22	17	3	2	67	10	57	54
Ryde City	22	16	3	3	59	16	43	51
Illawarra Lions	22	15	6	1	63	21	42	51
Schofield Scorpions	22	15	3	4	67	23	44	48
Parramatta City	22	9	5	8	34	31	3	32
Mt Druitt Town	22	9	2	11	25	31	-6	29
Mt Pritchard	22	7	5	10	24	39	-15	26
MSC Liverpool	22	6	5	11	18	40	-21	23
Stanmore Hawks	22	5	6	11	22	31	-9	21
Hurstville City CS	22	5	3	14	42	49	-7	18
Hawkesbury City	22	3	8	11	16	32	-16	17
Rockdale City Suns	22	0	1	21	9	124	-115	1

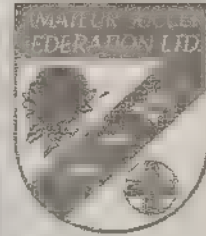
GRADE 12

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Schofield Scorpions	22	15	5	2	47	11	36	50
Camden Tigers	22	16	2	4	42	9	33	50
Ryde City	22	15	3	4	46	18	28	48
MSC Liverpool	22	12	6	4	44	24	20	42
Mt Druitt Town	22	11	7	4	48	29	19	40
Illawarra Lions	22	9	3	10	34	38	4	30
Parramatta City	22	7	3	12	29	44	-15	24
Mt Pritchard	22	5	7	10	26	37	-11	22
Hurstville City CS	22	5	6	11	30	55	-25	21
Rockdale City Suns	22	5	4	13	19	37	-18	19
Stanmore Hawks	22	4	4	14	19	36	-17	16
Hawkesbury City	22	2	2	18	12	58	-46	8



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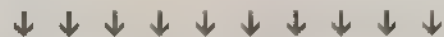
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GRASS ROOTS SOCCER

Over the last week violence in soccer has been a major discussion point throughout the media, in particular violence towards referees and officials.

I must say that when it comes to physical abuse, although one is too many, there have been less than 4 cases reported this season.

In considering that the NSWASF has 130,000 registered players and over 3,200 referees officiating every weekend, it is becoming more apparent that the constant awareness program and

penalties in place are effectively reducing the amount of abuse directed towards our referees and officials.

I welcome the attention of the current media coverage. This coverage helps us in promoting awareness that this type of behaviour is NOT acceptable. Abuse of a referee is not acceptable in soccer or any sport and never will be.

These types of behaviour are not only harmful to the players, but also contribute

to a damaging reputation for our great game.

We must all remember that soccer is for fun and EVERYBODY should enjoy the experience!

Congratulations to all teams competing in the grand finals and whether you won or lost the game, you can be proud of your achievements and we look forward to seeing you all again next year.

MIKE

COUNTRY GIRLS ON COURSE FOR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

The NSW State Country Girls teams are heading to Coffs Harbour this week to compete in the Womens National Junior and Youth Championships commencing 8th to 14th September.

National Junior Championships

The NSW Country U14 team has prepared well for the 2002 Junior Championships and coach Peter Page is keen to see the team do well after reaching the semi-finals at the recent Kanga Cup tournament in Canberra.

NSW Country U14 Team

E. O'Mara, R. Kelly, J. Mara, E. Crowe, L. Kable, C. O'Leary, L. Glohe, V. Hart, T. Pyers, K. Meehan, L. Bundy, E. Stott, S. Hockie, M. Boeska, K. Herbert, B. Fisher.

National Youth Championships

The NSW Country U17 team will kick off the Youth Championships brimming with confidence after winning the Kanga Cup Tournament in July. Coach Norm Boardman says the

team, captained again by Kate Lawson, is well on its way to proving that regional NSW boasts some of the most talented female soccer players in the country.

NSW Country U17 Team

A. Chapman, G. Chapman, S. Shipard, N. Monks, R. Aberley, L. McClymont, K. Sheppard, B. Muldoon, C. Halloway, K. Cassidy, K. Lawson (C), S. Blacka, C. Maciejewski, J. Maciejewski, R. Cartwright, S. Finn, V.

Clancy.

NSW Country State Team Officials

State Team Director: Frank Wilson
U14 Country Team: Coach: Peter Page, Ass. Coach: Hadden Appo, Manager: Jenny Madden, Trainer: Karen Leonard.

U17 Country Team: Coach: Norm Boardman, Ass. Coach: Jeff Blake, Manager: Vicki Tidswell, Trainer: Rob Laws.



CLUB OF THE WEEK

LIVERPOOL CITY ROBINS SC

The foundation of Liverpool City Robins was laid in 1967 when a group of local residents teamed up and played under the name of "The Hearts" at Phillip Park, Hillview (now Lurnea).

This keen group decided to form a club and "Liverpool City Robins" (named after England's Frome Town Football Club's "Robins") was formed.

Located in Raine Park in 1970 the club then moved to "Paciullo Oval" where Southern Districts' Soccer Football Association donated the fencing so the representative teams could play on a top field.

On 30 August 1990 Liverpool City Robins became incorporated and has since evolved as a club of great strength. The club has managed to overcome minor problems like Paciullo Oval sinking into the old tip it's built on and having to water the field from the amenities block, but a major problem was no lighting. The members worked hard and over time raised enough funds for 4 light towers giving us the best lighting in the District. There wasn't enough money left for a full irrigation system but we at least made water available to the far side of the field.

L.C.R. have been supported by a variety of dedicated sponsors over the years. We proudly acknowledge our 2002 major sponsors PIZZA HAVEN - Lurnea, GOLSPORT "VAL SPORT" and our new sponsor A.H. Beard Bedding through one of their major products "KING COIL". We hope that this association will provide

much needed assistance in the development of soccer and continued success of the club. Our thanks go out to all our sponsors, both past and present, big or small.

Success has been evident with our Juniors, All Age and Premier League teams and even a Ladies All Age team. L.C.R. have had their names up as Minor Premiers, Premiers as

Champions. In 1998 and 1999 they remained undefeated for all but one game. A truly remarkable performance to only lose one game in four years, a feat that we may never see again.

Now in our 36th year, our objective remains firm - to foster and promote the game of soccer for everyone! This coincides with our unofficial objective, to assist with the local youth of

expect good sportsmanship at all times, both on and off the field.

This year the club fielded teams in the Southern Districts Soccer Football Association from Premier League, Alliance All Age Ladies and Nurseries, Mini's & Juniors. 3 teams. U16's, U15's and U12's who competed in 1st Division. The U16's have been successful in making the semi's and our Alliance team has taken out the 2002 Metropolitan Cup.

Next year looks promising as Liverpool City Robins will be relocated to new grounds from 2003 as Paciullo Oval will make way for roads and Carparks at the new Liverpool "Oasis" complex.

Discussions with Liverpool City Council over the past years have proven fruitful, and a draft plan was submitted for the establishment of a new soccer complex at Amalfi Park. Across the road from Paciullo Oval, Amalfi Park already has a Grandstand and a very large area capable of having multiple fields.

There will be 2 full international size fields and with Southern Districts Soccer Football Association fully behind us, we believe Amalfi will be a Centrepiece for Soccer in the district. A plan of action is already in place to host Finals and Grand Finals for the District, State Cup and Champion of Champions. We believe the available advertising at Amalfi will be very attractive for Sponsors

and potential Sponsors.

Sporting Clubs like ours are always in search of many new enterprises such as Sponsor's to make the sporting environment affordable, pleasant and an enjoyable experience for all Players and Members. More and more Clubs are becoming business wise and professional and we at Liverpool City Robins are always on the lookout for Sponsor's. The more we can do to foster the champions of the future. We will not be left behind, we will be "The Club That's Going Places".

The success of the Liverpool City Robins is undeniable. The 2002 Executive committee, Richard Reberger (Pres), Steve Ingram (Sec) and David Cariyon (Treas.) attribute much of the club's success to the outstanding support of their sponsors, the tireless efforts of the dedicated volunteers, and the encouragement and enthusiasm of their Life Members.



Liverpool City Robins 9/5's 2002

well as winners of the prestigious Peter Miller, Carey, and Kevin Morris Cups. And Yes! We finally won the prestigious Champion of Champions title, not once but 3 years in a row!! 1997 saw our undefeated '96 Premiers U16 girls team become undefeated Premiers of the Macarthur / Southern Districts combined competition; Zone 4 Cup winners; State Cup winners and Champion of

today, getting them off the street and providing a safe environment for learning the art and skills of the world game! Boys and Girls benefit from the companionship from their team members and trust and responsibility from the Coaches, Managers and Club Officials. What we expect from the players is respect for their fellow Players, Coaches, Managers and Club Members. We also

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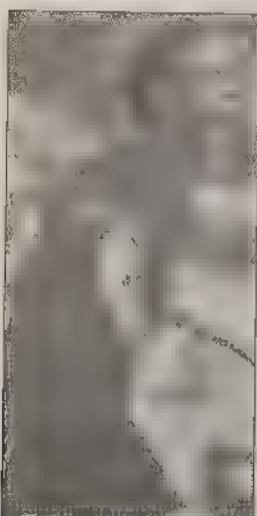
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WORLD NEWS & GOSSIP

SPURS WAIT AS REAL PONDERES MORIENTES FUTURE

Real Madrid president Florentino Perez and sports chief Jorge Valdano will



Spanish and Real Madrid star Fernando Morientes in talks with Premier League side Tottenham.

discuss the future of Fernando Morientes this week.

The striker is a target for Tottenham and Real must decide quickly whether to sell him and bring in a replacement, or hold onto the Spanish international. Tottenham have been in talks with Morientes' representatives, but are yet to agree terms.

Both parties are exploring alternatives to cover Morientes' wage demands. Real are now demanding £20 million for the forward following the collapse of Ronaldo's move from Inter Milan. Reports suggest Morientes is fuming that his future has been clouded by the constant speculation over Ronaldo - with Real officials refusing to deny he could make way for the Brazilian.

Asprilla set to be unveiled at Darlington

Faustino Asprilla will be introduced to the Darlington crowd before the Quakers' clash with Carlisle at Feethams.

Asprilla is yet to receive a work permit, but the Quakers are confident their application will be successful. Quakers club captain Carl Laidie believes the capture of the 32-year-old former Newcastle star is an exciting coup for the club.

He said: "If we do pull it off I think it will be great for the supporters more than anything else and I'm looking forward to playing with him, if we do sign him."

"I think it will give the whole club a lift but it will be interesting to see how well he does in Division Three. Everyone knows he is a quality player but I could take him on myself to this level."

"There will be players out there who will go on to hurt him, just to make a name for themselves but he's probably had that most of his career so he'll be used to that," he told the club's official website.

Litmanen opens talks with Galatasaray

Liverpool have given Galatasaray permission to discuss terms with Jari Litmanen.

The Finland international has failed to nail down a regular first-team place and has admitted he is unhappy at Anfield.

Club spokesman Ian Cotton has confirmed that the Turkish giants, who are in Liverpool's Champions League group, have made an approach for the 31-year-old striker.

"We can confirm that we have been approached by



Finnish international Jari Litmanen has opened talks with Turkish giants Galatasaray.

Galatasaray and have given them permission to speak with Jari," Cotton announced on the club's official website.

"But, contrary to reports in the press, Jari Litmanen has not cleared his locker at Melwood and he is not away on family business. He trained with the squad yesterday and will be here this afternoon to train with the rest of his team-mates."

Any deal must be completed by August 31 or put on ice until the transfer window reopens in January.

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE GROUPS ANNOUNCED

Group A

Arsenal (Eng)
Borussia Dortmund (Ger)
PSV Eindhoven (Ned)
AJ Auxerre (Fra)

Group B

Valencia (Spa)
Liverpool (Eng)
Spartak Moscow (Rus)
FC Basel (Swi)

Group C

Real Madrid (Spa)
AS Roma (Ita)
AEK Athens (Gre)
Genk (Bel)

Group D

Inter Milan (Ita)
Olympique Lyon (Fra)
Ajax Amsterdam (Ned)
Rosenborg Trondheim (Nor)

Group E

Juventus (Ita)
Feyenoord (Ned)
Dynamo Kiev (Ukr)
Newcastle United (Eng)

Group F

Manchester United (Eng)
Bayer Leverkusen (Ger)
Olympiakos Piraeus (Gre)
Maccabi Haifa (Isr)

Greek clubs in indirect state rescue bid

The Greek government is considering a back-door rescue package for six professional soccer clubs ahead of a FIFA deadline for debt repayments, Greece's culture minister said on last Tuesday.

PAOK Salonika and Panionios in the first division and second division clubs Olympiakos Volou, Panelefsiniakos, Larissa and Kavala are threatened with relegation unless they make a down payment on monies owed to former players, staff and foreign clubs by Wednesday.

PAOK, who are being pursued over debts to Argentine player Patricio Camps and Swiss team FC Tyrol, also risk losing their place in this season's UEFA Cup competition.

Speaking at the unveiling of a new draft sports law designed, in part, to guarantee

the future independence of sports authorities from the state, Greek Culture Minister Evangelos Venizelos ruled out direct aid to professional clubs.



"The debts of the clubs to players, coaches or other clubs...is a question to be resolved by the teams as businesses in their own right," he said. "The state is not there to cover these kinds of obligations."

However, the minister admitted that financial support existed for the amateur wings of the troubled clubs in question and they would not block any moves to clear debts in this

manner.

"We can support only amateur bodies. Those amateur bodies at their own initiative may decide to support their professional counterparts with some form of free loan," he said.

Greek soccer authorities were unable to confirm on Tuesday how much money the threatened teams owed or if they would be able to meet the FIFA deadline.

The Greek Football Federation (EPO) came within hours of expulsion from FIFA in June 2001, after investigators found evidence of systematic state intervention in the running of the sport.

The current draft bill is part of a compromise deal brokered between FIFA officials and the Athens administration to achieve a formal independence of soccer authorities.

Group G

Bayern Munich (Ger)
Deportivo La Coruna (Spa)
AC Milan (Ita)
RC Lens (Fra)

Group H

Barcelona (Spa)
Galatasaray (Tur)
Lokomotiv Moscow (Rus)
Club Brugge (Bel)

FIRST ROUND CHAMPIONS LEAGUE FIXTURES

Tuesday, September 17

AJ Auxerre v PSV Eindhoven
Arsenal v Borussia Dortmund
Valencia v Liverpool
Basel v Spartak Moscow
Genk v AEK Athens
AS Roma v Real Madrid
Rosenborg Trondheim v Inter Milan
Ajax Amsterdam v Olympique Lyon

Wednesday, September 18

Feyenoord v Juventus
Dynamo Kiev v Newcastle United
Manchester United v Maccabi Haifa
Olympiakos Piraeus v Bayer Leverkusen
Bayern Munich v Deportivo Coruna
AC Milan v RC Lens
Lokomotiv Moscow v Galatasaray
Barcelona v Club Brugge

Venables willing to let Keane leave

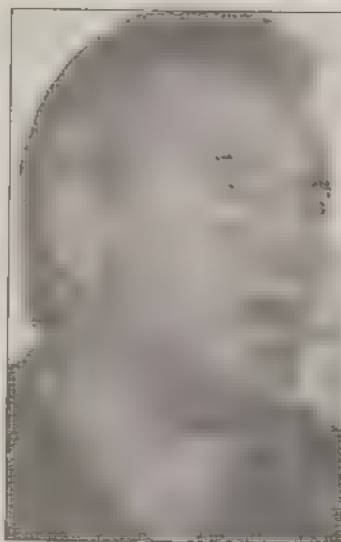
Leeds boss Terry Venables has admitted he is willing to let Republic of Ireland striker Robbie Keane leave Elland Road.

Keane has spoken of his frustration at having to settle for a place on the bench as the Yorkshire club began the season with wins against Manchester City and West Bromwich Albion.

Although Keane, who impressed with his goalscoring displays in the World Cup, scored after coming on during the Manchester City game, he revealed: "At this stage of my career, I cannot afford to spend week after week on the subs' bench waiting for a chance to impress in the closing stages of games."

He was linked with moves to Sunderland and Tottenham over the summer, although no transfer materialised.

And now Venables - who says he was surprised by Keane's recent comments -



Leeds United coach Terry Venables has indicated that he is willing to let Robbie Keane transfer to another club if the offer was right.

is willing to listen to offers for the former Wolves and Coventry player.

He said: "If there's any interest, I will look at it - and if he doesn't want to be here, I will feel the same."

"I'm not going to cut my nose off to spite my face. I would like to keep all the good players here to take on the challenge and compete."

"Now, if that changes then I have to take stock and see whether I feel I can do that without doing anything to my own situation."

"There have been approaches before, from Sunderland and Spurs, but that was it. Unless that changes then we will stay as we are."

"But if someone wants to come to me and make something, on the club's terms, then it's possible it will go through."

"But as I've said, we want players that want to be here to challenge for positions. You have to do that."



ENGLAND



SUNDERLAND1 MANCHESTER UNITED

Roy Keane was sent off in the dying seconds of Manchester United's game at Sunderland after apparently elbowing former Republic of Ireland teammate Jason McAteer.

It is the latest in a series of incidents to blight Keane, who is waiting to hear whether the Football Association will charge him for bringing the game into disrepute after comments made in his recently published autobiography.

The incident overshadowed a dream debut for Tore Andre Flo, whose 70th minute equaliser earned a point for Sunderland.

United had taken the lead after seven minutes when Ryan Giggs drilled home the opening goal as the visitors dominated proceedings.

But Sunderland, who are enjoying a new-found confidence after beating Leeds and bringing strikers Flo and Marcus Stewart to the club in the week, hit back.

The Norwegian repaid a chunk of the £6.75million fee Sunderland paid Rangers by firing home a McAteer cross to equalise.

MANCHESTER CITY 3 EVERTON1

Nicolas Anelka netted a hat-trick as Manchester City overcame a one-man disadvantage to beat Everton 3-1 at Maine Road.

Anelka enjoyed a large stroke of luck as he opened his City account with a deflected shot from distance to give his side a 14th-minute lead.

And the Frenchman swiftly made it two, volleying home from just inside the penalty area before Everton were handed a first-half lifeline.

Shaun Wright-Phillips scythed down Gary Naysmith



Nicolas Anelka of Manchester City celebrates scoring his second goal during the match between Manchester City and Everton at Maine Road.

in the penalty area and was shown the red card for foul and abusive language, leaving David Unsworth to stroke the ball beyond Peter Schmeichel.

But after enduring a nervous few minutes, Anelka struck for a third time to finally make his mark at Maine Road to seal the victory.

TOTTENHAM2 SOUTHAMPTON1

Les Ferdinand fired out a warning to Tottenham new-boy Robbie Keane but Teddy Sheringham stole the show with a last-minute penalty to beat Southampton 2-1 at White Hart Lane.

Keane is expected to challenge the former England man for his place in the starting line-up but Ferdinand offered the perfect response, firing home from close range after 10 minutes.

Southampton fought back though and levelled after 28 minutes when Mauricio Taricco turned the ball into his

own net from a Brett Ormerod cross to level.

Sheringham claimed the three points when he slid home after Michael Svensson was dismissed for deliberate handball.

WEST HAM0 CHARLTON2

Charlton shocked West Ham four minutes into the first half at Upton Park when Claus Jensen smashed a Luke Young long throw into the roof of the net.

Matters got worse for the home side when John Fortune latched on to a Radostin Kishishev pass to secure a 2-0 win for Charlton.

MIDDLESBROUGH ...1 BLACKBURN0

Middlesbrough stole a 1-0 win over Blackburn at the Riverside Stadium when Joseph Desire Job netted in the final minute.

WEST BROM1 FULHAM0

West Brom scored their first Premiership points with a 1-0 victory over Fulham at the Hawthorns.

Darren Moore broke the deadlock when he headed home a Neil Clement cross just 90 seconds into the second half.

BIRMINGHAM2 LEEDS UNITED1

Birmingham notched their first victory in the Premiership when they surprised Terry Venables'

Leeds 2-1 at St Andrews.

Damien Johnson's stunning goal earned City the points after Lee Bowyer slotted home for Leeds just after half-time to cancel out Paul Devlin's thumping first-half shot.

BOLTON1 ASTON VILLA0

Michael Ricketts applied a cool spot-kick finish to lift Bolton off the foot of the Premiership with a 1-0 win over Aston Villa which took the early-season heat off manager Sam Allardyce.

Ricketts, subject of an apparently laughable transfer bid from Tottenham to take him to White Hart Lane last week, converted a 56th minute penalty to give Bolton their first points of the new campaign.

CHELSEA1 ARSENAL1

Kolo Touré rescued a Premiership point for ten-man Arsenal after they had fallen behind to a bizarre Gianfranco Zola goal against Chelsea at Stamford Bridge.

Zola had put the west London hosts ahead on 35 minutes when his deep free-kick from the left eluded everybody, including Arsenal goalkeeper David Seaman, before bouncing into the net.

Arsenal were reduced to ten men shortly after half-time when French international midfielder Patrick Vieira was dismissed for a second bookable foul, but the English champions battled back and Touré's surging run into the Chelsea area brought them a share of the spoils.

PREMIER LEAGUE

TABLE

Birmingham 2 Leeds 1, West Ham 0 Charlton 2, Manchester C 3
Everton 1, Middlesbrough 1 Blackburn 0, Sunderland 1
Manchester U 1, Tottenham 2 Southampton 1, West Bromwich 1
Fulham 0, Bolton 1 Aston Villa 0, Chelsea 1 Arsenal 1.

	P	W	D	L	GD	Pts
Tottenham Hotspur	4	3	1	0	3	10
Arsenal	4	2	2	0	5	8
Liverpool	3	2	1	0	4	7
Leeds United	4	2	0	2	5	6
Chelsea	4	1	3	0*	1	6
Charlton Athletic	4	2	0	2	1	6
Man City	4	2	0	2	1	6
Man Utd	3	1	2	0	1	5
Middlesbrough	3	1	2	0	1	5
Blackburn Rovers	4	1	2	1	0	5
Sunderland	4	1	2	1	0	5
Everton	4	1	2	1	-1	5
Fulham	3	1	1	1	2	4
Birmingham City	4	1	1	2	-2	4
Newcastle United	2	1	0	1	3	3
Aston Villa	4	1	0	3	-2	3
Bolton Wanderers	3	1	0	2	-3	3
West Bromwich Albion	4	1	0	3	-5	3
Southampton	4	0	2	2	-4	2
West Ham Utd	3	0	1	2	-6	1

FIRST DIVISION

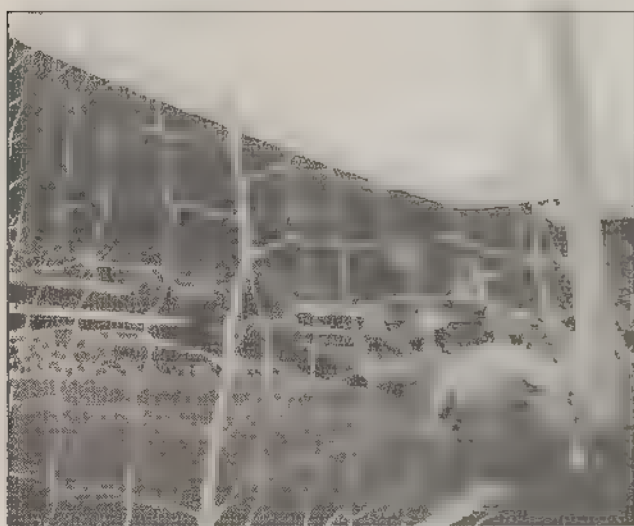
Bradford 4 Rotherham 2, Burnley 0 Crystal P 0, Coventry 0
Nottingham 1, Derby 2 Stoke 0, Leicester 2 Gillingham 0,
Millwall 2 Grimsby 0, Norwich 4 Watford 0, Portsmouth 4
Brighton 2, Walsall 0 Reading 2, Wimbledon 3 Wolverhampton 2,
Preston 0 Ipswich 0, Sheffield W 2 Sheffield U 0.

	P	W	D	L	GD	PTS
Portsmouth	6	5	1	0	9	16
Norwich	6	4	2	0	11	14
Leicester City	6	4	1	1	1	13
Wolverhampton Wanderers	6	3	2	1	7	11
Rotherham Utd	6	3	2	1	6	11
Nottm Forest	6	3	1	2	4	10
Gillingham	6	3	1	2	0	10
Coventry City	6	3	1	2	-1	10
Bradford City	6	2	3	1	2	9
Derby County	6	3	0	3	1	9
Reading	6	3	0	3	1	9
Ipswich Town	5	2	2	1	6	8
Sheff Utd	6	2	2	2	0	8
Preston	6	1	4	1	0	7
Wimbledon	6	2	1	3	-2	7
Walsall	6	2	1	3	-3	7
Watford	6	2	1	3	-5	7
Crystal Palace	6	1	3	2	-1	6
Stoke City	6	1	2	3	-3	5
Sheff Wed	6	1	2	3	-4	5
Millwall	6	1	2	3	-7	5
Brighton	6	1	1	4	-5	4
Grimsby Town	6	0	2	4	-8	2
Burnley	5	0	1	4	-9	1

SECOND DIVISION

Bristol C 2 Tranmere 0, Cheltenham 1 Cardiff 1, Colchester 1
Wigan 0, Huddersfield 0 Blackpool 0, Luton 3 Chesterfield 0,
Mansfield 0 Crewe 5, Northampton 1 Barnsley 0, Notts County 2
Brentford 2, Oldham 0 Wycombe 2, Port Vale 1 Peterborough 0,
Queens PR 2 Plymouth 2, Swindon 0 Stockport 1.

	P	W	D	L	GD	PTS
Brentford	6	4	2	0	6	14
Plymouth Argyle	6	4	1	1	4	13
Wigan Athletic	6	4	0	2	5	12
Crewe Alexandra	6	3	2	1	5	11
Cardiff City	6	3	2	1	3	11
Stockport	6	3	2	1	3	11
Tranmere Rovers	6	3	1	2	1	10
Colchester United	6	3	1	2	0	10
Wycombe Wanderers	6	2	3	1	2	9
Bristol City	6	3	0	3	2	9
Blackpool	6	2	3	1	2	9
Chesterfield	6	3	0	3	0	9
QPR	6	2	2	2	0	8
Oldham Athletic	6	2	2	2	0	8
Barnsley	6	2	2	2	-1	8
Northampton Town	6	2	2	2	-3	8
Notts County	6	1	4	1	1	7
Swindon Town	6	2	1	3	0	7
Port Vale	6	2	0	4	-5	6
Huddersfield Town	6	1	2	3	-3	5
Luton Town	6	1	1	4	-3	4
Mansfield Town	6	1	1	4	-9	4
Peterborough United	6	1	0	5	-5	3
Cheltenham Town	6	0	2	4	-5	2



Teddy Sheringham of Tottenham Hotspur scores the winner in the match between Tottenham Hotspur and Southampton at White Hart Lane.

WORLD

Spanish Primera Liga

Barcelona only had themselves to blame as Atletico Madrid came back to force a late 2-2 draw at Camp Nou. Luis Enrique put the Catalan's ahead on four minutes only for Jorge Otero to equalise on the stroke of half-time for the visitors.

Luis Enrique put Barca back in the lead in the 54th minute after superb linkup play with Javier Saviola, but the newly-promoted side drew level with a few minutes remaining when Fernando Correa found himself all alone in the box to blast home.

Barca wasted enough chances in the first-half to have won the game by three or four goals.

Result of the weekend, though, goes to Betis who thrashed Deportivo 4-2 at the Riazor.

Debutante Marcos Assuncao gave the southern side the lead after 19 minutes and Alfonso doubled it shortly after from the penalty spot. Normal service looked to have been resumed a few minutes later when Roy Makaay netted but Betis went in 3-1 up at the break thanks to Arzu.

Joaquin made it 4-1 for Victor Fernandez' men before Diego Tristan scored a 75th



José Manuel Sietes of Racing de Santander in action during the Primera Liga match between Racing and Valladolid.

minute penalty for Depor.

Valencia began the defence of their title with a 2-0 win at Real Mallorca thanks to goals from Gonzalo De Los Santos and Ruben Baraja.

In the Basque derby Valeri

Karpin scored on his debut as Real Sociedad beat Athletic Bilbao 4-2. The Russian scored after 28 minutes only for Gurpegi to equalise. Turkish international Nihat then restored Sociedad's lead

and the same player made it 3-1 in the 62nd minute. Gurpegi reduced the deficit but Darko Kovecevic made sure of the points.

New-boys Recreativo Huelva found out the harsh realities of Liga life as they threw away a 2-0 lead to lose 3-2 at home to Malaga.

Molina and Viqueira put them ahead but a Kiki Musampa hat-trick won the day for the islanders.

Celta Vigo, under the stewardship of Miguel Angel Lotina, secured a fine 1-0 win at Sevilla thanks to a 39th minute goal from Gustavo Lopez.

Losing Intertoto Cup finalists Villarreal were held at home by Osasuna despite two Victor goals putting them 2-0

ahead at the break. Lopez and Pablo Garcia equalised in the second-half for the side from Pamplona.

In the day's other match Rayo Vallecano drew 2-2 at home win Alaves.

Julio Alvarez Mosquera

gave Rayo the lead only for Ivan Alonso to equalise before half-time. Mosquera scored again for Rayo but Magno earned the Basques a point with a 71st minute goal.

Racing 0 Valladolid 1, R.Vallecano 2 Alaves 2, Mallorca 0 Valencia 2, R.Sociedad 4 Athletic 2, Barcelona 2 At.Madrid 2, Deportivo 2 Betis 4, Villarreal 2 Osasuna 2, Rec de Huelva 2 Malaga 3, R.Madrid 0 Espanyol 0, Sevilla 0 Celta 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
R.Sociedad	1	1	0	0	4	2	3
Betis	1	1	0	0	4	2	3
Valencia	1	1	0	0	2	0	3
Malaga	1	1	0	0	3	2	3
Valladolid	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
Celta	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
R.Vallecano	1	0	1	0	2	2	1
Alaves	1	0	1	0	22	1	-
Barcelona	1	0	1	0	2	2	1
At.Madrid	1	0	1	0	2	2	1
Villarreal	1	0	1	0	2	2	1
Osasuna	1	0	1	0	22	1	-
R.Madrid	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
Espanyol	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
Rec de Huelva	1	0	0	1	23	0	-
Racing	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
Sevilla	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
Athletic	1	0	0	1	2	4	0
Deportivo	1	0	0	1	2	4	0
Mallorca	1	0	0	1	0	2	0

NEXT FIXTURES Sep 15, 2002

Athletic - Barcelona
At.Madrid - Sevilla
Celta - Mallorca
Espanyol - R.Sociedad
Osasuna - Deportivo
Valencia - Rec de Huelva
Malaga - R.Vallecano
Betis - R.Madrid
Valladolid - Villarreal
Alaves - Racing

German Bundesliga

Hertha Berlin made an embarrassing first-round exit from the German Cup by losing on penalties to amateurs Holstein Kiel on Sunday.

The capital's club lost 3-0 in the shoot-out after managing only a 1-1 draw after 90 minutes and extra time with opponents playing in the regional league — the equivalent of the third division.

All the other 17 Bundesliga clubs survived the first round over the weekend but several looked far from impressive, notably Bayer Leverkusen, who went through with a 1-0 victory over amateurs Rot-Weiss Essen.

The only upset came from Kiel, where defender Matthias Rose delighted the 9,000 fans packing the northerners' tiny stadium by opening the scoring with a header just before the break.

Striker and captain Michael Preetz equalised for the visitors with a headed goal on 53 minutes but Hertha then struggled until



Michael Hartman of Hertha Berlin in action. Hertha lost in the first round of the German Cup.

Holstein goalkeeper Manuel Greil sealed victory for the home side by saving two penalties while another rattled his crossbar.

Hertha are still to win a match this season after drawing their opening three league games.

TSV 1860 Munich used four goals from striker Martin Max to hammer Alemannia Aachen's amateur side 7-0 while promoted Arminia Bielefeld also cruised through by crushing Saarbruecken's B-team 5-0.

Kaiserslautern

advanced comfortably as well with a 5-0 thrashing of fifth division Uhlenhorster SC Paloma.

Leverkusen, who lost to Schalke 04 in last season's final, were less impressive, needing a first-half goal from Brazil defend-

er Lucio for a dull 1-0 win over Essen — their first victory of the season.

Schalke, 10-times German Cup winners Bayern Munich and German champions Borussia Dortmund all qualified on

Saturday.

NEXT FIXTURES Sep 11, 2002

Hertha - M.Gladbach
Wolfsburg - Hamburger SV
B.München - 1860 München
Werder Bremen - Nürnberg
Hannover - Cottbus
Hansa Rostock - Leverkusen
Bochum - Dortmund
Stuttgart - Schalke
Kaiserslautern - Bielefeld

September 15, 2002

Cottbus - Werder Bremen
Nürnberg - B.München
1860 München - Wolfsburg
Hamburger SV - Kaiserslautern
Bielefeld - Hertha
M.Gladbach - Stuttgart
Bochum - Hansa Rostock
Leverkusen - Hannover
Dortmund - Schalke

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bochum	3	3	0	0	12	3	9
Hansa Rostock	3	3	0	0	8	0	9
B.München	3	2	1	0	9	2	7
Schalke	3	2	1	0	4	1	7
1860 München	3	2	0	1	6	3	6
Bielefeld	3	2	0	1	6	6	6
Dortmund	3	1	2	0	6	4	5
M.Gladbach	3	1	1	1	3	1	4
Hertha	3	0	3	0	3	3	3
Wolfsburg	3	1	0	2	1	2	3
Nürnberg	3	1	0	2	4	6	3
Hamburger SV	3	1	0	2	3	6	3
Werder Bremen	3	1	0	2	2	7	3
Leverkusen	3	0	2	1	4	6	2
Stuttgart	3	0	2	1	3	5	2
Kaiserslautern	3	0	1	2	2	7	1
Cottbus	3	0	1	2	1	10	1
Hannover	3	0	0	3	3	8	0

WORLD

ETHNIKI KATIGORIA

Panathinaikos FC fell to their second successive Ethniki Katigoria defeat of the season on Sunday, losing 1-0 at the hands of Proodeftiki FC.

The only goal of the game came after just five minutes, when Giorgos Pouloupoulos found the net, ultimately condemning Panathinaikos to bottom spot in the table.

Olympiakos Piraeus FC got their second win in the league, beating ten-man OFI Crete away from home thanks to a masterful performance by Stelios Venetidis. The left-back set up the



Olympiakos' star midfielder Stelios Giannakopoulos scored for the Gate Seven Side.



AEK Athens striker Demis Nikolaidis was in terrific form for his side last week.

game's only goal for Stilianos Giannakopoulos but also twice cleared the ball off his own goal-line to secure three points for his side. OFI's Kostas Kiassos was sent off in the dying minutes for a foul on Giannakopoulos.

AEK Athens FC had no trouble getting their first win of the season against PAS Giannina FC. They opened the scoring in the 17th minute through Ilija Ivic's header and Vassilis Tsartas doubled the lead from the penalty spot just before half-time. Immediately after the break Demis Nikolaidis made it 3-0, although a successful penalty from Xenofon Gitis on the hour

reduced the deficit.

In a very tense game between two teams involved in this year's UEFA Cup, Xanthi FC and FC PAOK Thessaloniki drew 1-1. PAOK created plenty of chances, but it was the home side who opened the scoring through Ismael Bah seven minutes before half-time.

The goal sparked unrest in the crowd, which caused the game to be delayed for a short while, but after the restart PAOK continued to dominate and eventually grabbed an equalizer in the dying seconds through a Giorgos Georgiadis penalty.

Despite Kostas Pozapalidis being sent off after just half an hour, Akrotiris got their first three points of the season at Kallithea. Akrotiris

captain Lefteris Velentzas scored both goals in the 2-0 victory. Iraklis FC also recorded a 2-0 win, beating Panahaiki GC thanks to goals from Takis Gonias and Marcin Mieczel.

Meanwhile, a solitary goal from Selahedine Bassir gave Aris victory against Panionios, even though they had Giorgos Koltsidas sent off with 25 minutes still on the clock, and the game between Ionikos and Aigaleo ended goalless.

Aris 1 Panionios 0, Panahaiki 0 Iraklis 2, OFI 0
Olympiakos 1, Kallithea 0 Akrotiris 2, Xanthi 1
PAOK 1, AEK 3 Giannina 1, Panathinaikos 0
Proodeytiki 1, Ionikos 0 Aigaleo 0.

FIXTURES Sep 15, 2002

AEK v Panathinaikos
Iraklis v Olympiakos
Panionios v Panahaiki
Akrotiris v OFI
Aigaleo v Aris
PAOK v Kallithea
Giannina v Ionikos
Proodeytiki v Xanthi

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Iraklis	2	2	0	0	5	0	6
Aris	2	2	0	0	2	0	6
Proodeytiki	2	2	0	0	2	0	6
Olympiakos	2	2	0	0	2	0	6
PAOK	2	1	1	0	5	2	4
AEK	2	1	1	0	4	2	4
Xanthi	2	1	1	0	2	1	4
Panionios	2	1	0	1	2	3	3
Akrotiris 2	1	0	1	2	1	3	1
Aigaleo	2	0	2	0	1	1	2
Ionikos	2	0	1	1	0	2	1
Giannina	2	0	0	2	1	4	0
Panahaiki	2	0	0	2	0	3	0
Kallithea	2	0	0	2	0	3	0
Panathinaikos	2	0	0	2	1	5	0
OFI	2	0	0	2	0	4	0

Dutch Eredivisie

Ajax's excellent start to their Eredivisie title defence continued with a 3-1 Sunday victory against FC Groningen that kept the Amsterdam team's 100 per cent record intact.

Rafael van der Vaart was the man in form for Ajax, and opened the scoring in the 14th minute. He added a second five minutes from half-time, and Andy van der Meyde contributed the third goal on 52 minutes, to inflict bottom-placed Groningen's third defeat of the season.

Newly-promoted Roosendaal secured their first top-flight win of the season with an impressive 3-0 victory against Heerenveen. Henk Vos was on the mark in the second minute, and Nordin Wooter and Ebrima Sillah both added goals to take Roosendaal up to seventh place.

FC Zwolle also got off the mark on Saturday thanks to a single-goal win against SBV Vitesse. Richard Roelofsen scored the winner on 58 minutes to continue the home side's unbeaten start to the season, having dominated the match against a Vitesse side that had defender Dejan Stefanovic sent off in added time.

NAC Breda were held 0-0 by NEC Nijmegen in a game of few chances. NEC goalkeeper Dennis Gentenaar was on fine form, but was beaten on 70 minutes by Orlando Engelaar, only for the NAC player's shot to cannon off the post and away to safety.

Willem II's unbeaten start came to a dramatic end with a 1-0 defeat against Roda JC. Yannis Anastasiou struck with just two minutes remaining to secure Roda's first victory of the season, having drawn their opening pair of fixtures.

RKC Waalwijk had a brief spell on top of the

table after a thrilling Friday night win against FC Twente. Waalwijk went ahead through Rick Hoogendorp on 42 minutes, only for Twente's Ellery Cairo to equalise immediately with a superb solo effort. Hoogendorp made it 2-1 on 79 minutes with a 25-metre free-kick, but Twente managed to level again through Khalid Sinouh. But Waalwijk's 100 per cent winning record was maintained with Eddy Putter's late winner from Zeljko Petrovic's cross.

RKC Waalwijk 3 Twente 2, Roda JC 1 Willem II 0, NAC Breda 0 NEC 0, Zwolle 1 Vitesse 0, RBC Roosendaal 3 Heerenveen 0, Groningen 1 Ajax 3.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ajax	3	3	0	0	8	3	9
RKC Waalwijk	3	3	0	0	9	5	9
PSV	2	2	0	0	3	0	6
Roda JC	3	1	2	0	5	4	5
Zwolle	3	1	2	0	3	2	5
Feyenoord	2	1	1	0	4	2	4
RBC Roosendaal	3	1	1	1	4	3	4
Willem II	3	1	1	1	3	2	4
NEC	3	1	1	1	2	2	4
De Graafschap	2	1	0	1	4	4	3
NAC Breda	3	0	3	0	3	3	3
Vitesse	3	1	0	2	3	4	3
AZ Alkmaar	2	0	1	1	3	5	1
Utrecht 2	0	1	1	2	4	1	1
Excelsior	2	0	1	1	1	3	1
Twente	3	0	1	2	3	6	1
Heerenveen	3	0	1	2	4	8	1
Groningen	3	0	0	3	2	6	0

Belgian Eerste Klasse

Anderlecht were deposed as early leaders of the Jupiler League after dropping their first points of the season in a 2-2 home draw with Gent on Saturday.

The visitors stunned their illustrious hosts in the eighth minute when Greek striker Alexandros Kaklamanos picked up on a defensive lapse to score from long range. South Korean Ki-Hyeon Seol levelled after 20 minutes and put his side ahead a minute before the interval.

Half-time came at the wrong time for Anderlecht, though, and Nenad Vancic converted a 48th-minute penalty to make it 2-2.

Club Brugge made it four wins from four to edge clear at the top of the table with a routine 4-0 home victory against KV Mechelen. Timmy Simons struck first from the penalty spot on 14 minutes before the visitors' Luis Guadeloupe was shown a red card ten minutes later.

Andrés Mendoza doubled the advantage seven minutes before the break and the second half was plain sailing for the hosts. New boy Alin Stoica registered his first goal for the club on 85 minutes before Tim Smolders rounded things off seconds later.

K. Lierse SK went down 1-0 at home to KVC Westerlo after Stijn Vlamincx crashed in an 81st-minute free-kick, while Cedric Roussel's 79th-minute strike helped Mons overcome Standard de Liège.

Sint-Truidense went goal crazy at home to Beveren, crushing the visitors 6-1. Danny Boffin, with a hat-trick, Bram Vangeel, Wouter Vrancken and Desiré Mbonabucya were the men on target. Arsène Né headed a late consolation for Beveren.

Goals from Paul Kpaka, Kristof Snelders and Kwame Quansah gave Germinal Beerschot Antwerpen a 3-0 home success against Lommel SK. The games between Sporting Lokeren St-Niklaas Waasland and Louviéroise, and R. Charleroi SC and

R. Antwerp, finished 1-1.

In Sunday's only game, reigning champions Genk conceded two late goals at Excelsior Mouscron and had to settle for a 2-2 draw.

Koen Daerden and Moumouni Dagano scored either side of half-time to give Genk what appeared a decisive lead, but Geoffrey Claeys pulled one back in the 89th minute, and Koen De Vleeschauwer levelled in stoppage time.

Anderlecht 2 AA Gent 2, Lokeren 1 La Louvière 1, GBA 3 Lommel 0, S. Charleroi 1 Antwerp 1, Mons 1 Standard 0, Club Brugge 4 KV Mechelen 0, Lierse 0 Westerlo 1, Sint-Truiden 6 Beveren 1, Exc. Mouscron 3 Genk 3.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Club Brugge	4	4	0	0	11	1	12
Anderlecht	4	3	1	0	10	3	10
Sint-Truiden	4	2	1	1	10	5	7
Exc. Mouscron	4	2	1	1	9	7	7
Lierse	4	2	1	1	5	3	7
Lokeren	4	2	1	1	7	6	7
Mons	4	2	1	1	3	4	7
GBA	3	2	0	1	7	5	6
Antwerp	4	1	2	1	6	6	5
AA Gent	4	1	2	1	5	5	5
Genk	3	1	1	1	9	8	4
Lommel	4	1	1	2	3	5	4
KV Mechelen	4	1	1	2	2	8	4
Westerlo	4	1	0	3	2	6	3
Beveren	4	1	0	3	4	11	3
S. Charleroi	4	0	2	2	5	7	2
La Louvière	4	0	2	2	4	6	2
Standard	4	0	1	3	3	9	1

WORLD LEAGUES

SCOTTISH PREMIER LEAGUE

Hibernian won their first game and points, of the SPL season, with a 2-0 win away at Motherwell. A goal in each half from former Motherwell star Derek Townley, including a stunning free kick, did the damage.

In the Tayside derby, Dundee United and Dundee failed to find a goal between them, although the headlines were made by United star Allan Smart, who was sent off with fifteen minutes to go for a studs first challenge on Jonay Hernandez.

Honours even also at Tynecastle where Hearts and Kilmarnock drew 1-1. Paul McMullen scored a superb goal on the half an hour mark to put the hosts ahead, however Kris Boyd equalised just before half time for Killie, who had Sean Hessey sent off between the goals.

Celtic and Rangers stay in the top two SPL spots after comprehensive victories this Sunday.

Martin O'Neill's Celtic put their midweek European disappointment firmly behind them with a 2-0 win over Livingston at Parkhead. First half goals from Henrik Larsson and Bobo Balde did the damage and kept the Bhoys top with a 100% record.

Rangers went even better as they demolished luckless Dunfermline 6-0 at East End Park. Veteran striker Claudio Caniggia took the plaudits with a hat trick, whilst Mikel Arteta, Fernando Ricksen and a Barry Ferguson penalty completed the rout.

Partick recorded their first victory since returning to the SPL with a 1-0 win at Aberdeen who had debutant Nicolas Fabiano red carded for two bookable fouls. David Lilley scored the winner for the visitors to move them nicely into mid table.



Paul McMullen of Hearts celebrates his Tynecastle strike.

Dundee.U 0 Dundee FC 0, Hearts 1 Kilmarnock 1, Motherwell 0 Hibernian 2, Dunfermline 0 Rangers 0, Aberdeen 0 Partick Thistle 1, Celtic 2 Livingston 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Celtic	5	5	0	0	14	1	15
Rangers	5	4	1	0	16	3	13
Hearts	5	2	3	0	10	4	9
Kilmarnock	5	2	2	1	5	6	8
Partick Thistle	5	1	3	1	4	4	6
Dunfermline	5	2	0	3	7	13	6
Motherwell	5	1	2	2	7	7	5
Dundee FC	5	1	2	2	5	9	5
Livingston	5	1	1	3	6	9	4
Aberdeen	5	1	1	3	3	9	4
Hibernian	5	1	0	4	7	13	3
Dundee.U	5	0	3	2	2	8	3

FRENCH LIGUE 1

A second-half equaliser from Argentinian striker Mario Cardetti spared Paris St Germain's blushes against Nice.

Cardetti headed Paulo Cesar's cross past goalkeeper Damien Gregorini in the 74th minute after Everson converted Kaba Diawara's cross 13 minutes earlier.

Mamadou Niang's early strike was enough to earn Troyes their first win of the season against Ajaccio.

The Senegal international escaped the attentions of Laurent Wuillot to fire home from inside the area, only Troyes' second goal in five games.

Montpellier failed to overcome 10-man Le Havre in their 0-0 draw.

The hosts spurned chance after chance and found Alexander Vencel in unbeatable form in Le Havre's goalmouth.

Guingamp and Bordeaux played out a goalless draw in a scrappy match in which visiting striker Christophe Dugarry had strong claims for a penalty wasting away.

The French international was brought down in the area by Nestor Fabbri but his appeals were turned down by referee Laurent Duhamel.

Hector Tapia rescued a point for Lille with a late equaliser against Strasbourg.

Ulrich Le Pen opened the scoring for the hosts in the 38th minute before Fernando D'Amico levelled with a fine header seven minutes after the break.

Corentin Martins' deflected shot gave the Alsatian side the lead again before Chilean striker Tapia's 85th-minute effort.

Strikes from Sochaux pair Sylvain Monsoreau (68) and Mickael Pagis (85) condemned Lyon to their first defeat of the season.

The visitors' only response was an own-goal from Nisa Saveljic in the penultimate minute of the game.

Bastia striker Hasan Ahamad saw red for a second bookable offence as his side still managed to beat Rennes 3-1.

Jocelyn Gourvennec opened for the hosts after 12 minutes before Frederic Piquionne levelled with an unstoppable drive four minutes later.

Ahamada restored Bastia's lead in the 23rd minute before Florian Maurice sealed the points in the 70th minute.

Sedan claimed their first win of the season against Nantes thanks to a wonderful strike from Stephane Noro.

The 22-year-old broke from midfield and unleashed an unstoppable 25-yard strike past goalkeeper Mickael Landreau in the 25th minute.

Finally, Pape Bouba Diop's 37th-minute penalty gave Lens all three points in a fiery clash against Monaco at the Stade Louis II.

The hosts were reduced to 10 men when Gael Givet was dismissed for a wild lunge on John Utaka, but the referee levelled up the numbers by also showing a red card to Lens' Cameroon captain Rigobert Song.

Lens 1 Monaco 0, Bastia 3 Rennes 1, Guingamp 0 Bordeaux 0, Montpellier 0 Le Havre 0, PSG 1 Nice 1, Sedan 1 Nantes 0, Sochaux 2 Lyon 1, Strasbourg 2 Lille 2, Troyes 1 Ajaccio 0, Marseille 0 Auxerre 0.

Lens 1 Monaco 0, Bastia 3 Rennes 1, Guingamp 0 Bordeaux 0, Montpellier 0 Le Havre 0, PSG 1 Nice 1, Sedan 1 Nantes 0, Sochaux 2 Lyon 1, Strasbourg 2 Lille 2, Troyes 1 Ajaccio 0, Marseille 0 Auxerre 0.

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ALAIN'S CORNER



Alain Barataud

France in Hot Water

Les Bleues were back ten days ago to play their first game of the new season against Tunisia. For his first game as coach of France, Jacques Santini selected a very surprising team to play the local side.

Lead by captain Zidane, Les Bleues took control of the game from the very first minute and naturally opened the score at the nineteenth minute by Sylvestre. The Tunisians then decided it was time to play as well and created many chances to score but Coupet was concentrating hard on the game. France once again let the African side play and soon was in trouble in the midfield. Just before half time the Tunisians equalized.

In the second half, France produced a very poor performance with only one shot by Zidane. Tunisia dominated the rest of the game and with the great Gregory Coupet, France would have been back in Paris with a loss.

At the press conference, French coach Santini admitted, "There's a lot of work to do. We need to rebuild the team who have lost their confidence and try to become what we have been in these last six years to jolt the rest of the world. France is in the danger zone and has to wake up very quickly because they have to play on Saturday in Cyprus for the 2004 European Championship qualification and they can't miss this competition - especially since they are the European Champion!"

This weekend in France, Round Five of the League saw Nice, and Auxerre on top. Guingamp, Paris, Bordeaux, Marseille and Lyon remain in the top six as well and for the first time in four years, Marseille is in a good position, before their game in Nice in ten days.

What a story for Nice.

Two months ago they were relegated to third division because of big money troubles and was put back in only fifteen days because of the beginning of the competition. Coach Gernot Rohr, with only one week to do it, built a team that played every game with their heart to survive in League One. What a dream for this team, who had every single club and coach betting on them to stay more than one year in the top league and then be relegated straight away to League Two.

This goes to prove one thing - the last World Cup has shown the planet that there is no longer such a thing as a small team and this applies as well to the French League. Be careful and don't judge Nice so quickly. They can surprise more than one team this year with all their warriors and survivors from this summer.

It is sure, Nice will not be the French Champion at the end of the season but a place in the top ten will be a great result for them, and the feeling is after their very good draw in Paris on Sunday, they may be able to be better.

For Auxerre, it is a different story. They play to win the title and this talented young team who just qualified for the Champions League after they beat Boavista Porto last Tuesday, will join Lyon and Lens who have already qualified, to play Arsenal, PSV Eindhoven and Dortmund in Group A of the Champions League after winning by one goal in Portugal.

They have a different politics and that is they want to shine on the European scene as they shine in France. With their team "made in Auxerre" (all their players are former players from their youth development center academy), Auxerre wants to become the Ajax Amsterdam of France, but first they must get some good results in the Champions League.

Lens, after five games without losing any, will play in the Champions League Bayern Munich, La Corogna and the giant AC Milan, which in Europe have been labelled the Group of Death.

Lyon, the French champions, lost their first game of the year 2-1 against Sochaux. After UEFA nominated Lyon on the top ten list of European Clubs by their budget and results in the last five years, they now want to reach the semi final of the Champions League but for that they have to qualify in a Group where they will face Inter Milan, Ajax Amsterdam and Rosenborg - nothing impossible.

Before the end of the transfer market deadline some new players have signed the dotted line - Brazilian International star from Real Madrid, Savio in Bordeaux and the French International, Lilian Laslandes from Sunderland to Bastia.

Next weekend there is no game in the French League as France will take on Cyprus for the European Championship in Portugal.

NEW KIDS ON THE BLOCK



Sydney United new recruit Damon Collina.



Photographer:
Carlos Furtado



Straight from the 'Gong to the city, Alvin Ceccoli will be one of the many new faces at the Power this year.



Workhorse Brendan Renaud keen to kick the new season off with Parramatta.



Former Bonnyrigg White Eagles star Vuko Tomasevic is keen to take on the big guns of the National League with new club Northern Spirit.



Former Marconi Stallions defender Michael Beauchamp shows off his new strip with the Parramatta Power.



Brad Maloney: Talented midfielder has left the Glory for the Power this season.



Louis Brain: From the City of Churches to Sydney United this season.



Fresh from his 3-year absence from Australian soccer, Kosta Salapasis is back better than ever at the Parramatta Power.



Aiming for his 400 match, Alex Tobin will lead the Spirit defence in this season's National League competition.



'Heads Up', New Olympic Sharks defender will be out to impress the loyal fans at Toyota Park in the Blue and White shirt this season.



Former Socceroo Robbie Enes will be prancing with the Stallions this year.



Former Wolves and Spirit striker Tony Parrish has been snapped up by Rapid Blanco's Stallions this season.